

President's nominee wins after snub

Double blow to the authority of Gorbachev

FROM MARY DELESVY AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev suffered a double blow to his declining authority yesterday when his nominee for Soviet vice-president was only elected on a second ballot and the Russian Federation announced that it would withhold much of its contribution to the central budget.

The initial rejection of his hand-picked and only candidate for the vice-presidency further dented Mr Gorbachev's already battered prestige. When Gennadi Yanayev succeeded at the second attempt, he met a less than enthusiastic reception from some members of the Congress of People's Deputies.

The loss of Russian funds threatens the country with serious financial problems after the federation parliament voted to withhold more than 80 per cent of its planned contribution to next year's central budget. The decision, taken by the Russian parliament late on Wednesday, constitutes an open challenge to central economic control and was at once

condemned by Mr Gorbachev as threatening the "disintegration not only of the economy, but of the country as a whole." The Russian move leaves the Soviet budget for next year, which was to have been finalised next week, without the bulk of its planned revenue. According to Mr Gorbachev, central programmes, including social spending and state subsidies, will have to be cut by 110 billion roubles (£110 billion). This year, Russia contributed 142 billion roubles to the centre, but it has said it will give only 23.4 billion next year.

The Soviet central budget was always going to experience difficulties next year, with the most optimistic estimate forecasting an internal deficit of 59 billion roubles, roughly the same as that predicted for this year. But this required full contributions from the republics, a sharp reduction in capital investment, lower defence spending, and price increases. So far there has been intense public resistance to price rises and the military is believed to have lobbied successfully to have planned cuts reduced.

What remained unclear last night was Russia's real power to withhold its contributions, given the still highly centralized system and the degree to which the manoeuvre was a bargaining ploy.

In the vice-presidential ballot, Mr Yanayev, aged 53, was 31 votes short of the simple majority needed, taking only 1,089 of 2,239 on the first count. Many delegates to the congress declined to vote at all. Despite the initial result, Mr Gorbachev stood by his choice and nominated Mr Yanayev for a second ballot, which he won comfortably, with 1,237 votes in his favour. His confirmation was greeted by thin applause from delegates tired and bored after ten days of often ineffectual debate.

Mr Yanayev, a senior party official and formerly head of the official trade union movement, was an unexpected choice for vice-president and many congress delegates, regardless of their political sympathies, complained that they did not know him. Reformists considered him too hardline, while many others said he lacked the necessary stature.

After the first ballot, there

was hysterical condemnation from the floor of more than 100 delegates who had registered to vote but did not. A delegate who tried to dismiss the re-run as a charade and travesty of democracy found his microphone turned off.

Speakers who appeared to have been subject to a degree of arm-twisting to support Mr Yanayev's second attempt brought a wide variety of arguments to explain their choice. Some said Mr Gorbachev had frequently been accused of indecision, and by standing by his choice, he was proving his consistency and single-mindedness. Others said that Mr Yanayev's reputation as a firm traditionalist would complement Mr Gorbachev's qualities and compensate for his defects.

One speaker said that Mr Gorbachev was taking a leaf out of Boris Yeltsin's book by choosing an unknown for his team. But others implied obliquely that Mr Yanayev was in the same mould and would have been the natural choice of the ailing prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, who had a heart attack on Wednesday. The final speaker foretold catastrophe if delegates failed to back his choice for vice-president.

Mr Gorbachev supported his decision to renominate Mr Yanayev by saying that only 25 per cent of delegates had voted against him and that the post of vice-president had to be decided as a matter of urgency. "I want someone I can trust implicitly," he told sceptical delegates.

Russian squeeze, page 8
Food fiasco, page 8

At least he hasn't
been called up
to the GULF...



Stormy meeting led to Ryzhkov heart attack

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister, suffered his cardiac arrest after "excessive attacks that were exaggerated, persistent and deliberate", according to his wife Ludmila. Yesterday, President Gorbachev said he was in a serious but stable condition.

Mrs Ryzhkov described her husband's illness in an unusually personal interview, published at length by Tass, which had given strikingly sympathetic coverage to the prime minister's views when he was still at work. She confirmed speculation that his cardiac seizure occurred hours after Tuesday night's stormy meeting between the Russian Federation and the central authorities, which threatened to paralyse the economy.

"At three o'clock, he woke me up and asked me to give him something for his heart. His forehead was covered in cold perspiration... I gave him Valoid and called the doctor, who immediately sent for the ambulance," Mrs Ryzhkov said. She added that her husband was no worse yesterday than on Wednesday, despite reports on Moscow Radio that his condition had deteriorated. "The pain has subsided, but some time will be needed to stabilise his emotional state."

The work is being pioneered by a team from the Australian National University in Canberra, which is studying blood traces from tools discovered at various sites in the Middle East. Thomas Loy, the team leader and formerly of the Royal British Columbia museum in



Storm tossed: a ferry struggling across the Firth of Clyde from Gourock to the Kilcregan Peninsula yesterday

Another five days of gales forecast

BY DAVID YOUNG AND KERRY GILL

BRITAIN is bracing itself for a fourth day of gales after rain and winds gusting up to 80mph has blocked and flooded roads and left thousands of people without electricity.

Yesterday saw the worst weather so far of the present stormy conditions, with lower temperatures and continuing high winds. Blizzards swept south from Scotland and Northern Ireland into northern England and North Wales. Another five days of gales have been predicted. The London Weather Centre said that winds would again reach gale force today, and that Scotland, Northern Ireland, the North and the West would bear the brunt of the storms. Snow would fall on high ground and there would be heavy seas. The rest of the country faced torrential sleet and rain, with high winds unlikely to disappear before next Monday or Tuesday.

Yesterday's gales brought down power lines in the Midlands, cutting off more than 3,000 homes. High winds and snow caused disruption throughout Scotland. A man died when his car collided with a lorry in the Borders. Police said that the accident was caused by bad weather. Power lines were brought down by winds gusting at more than 70mph, trees were toppled and many roads were

Continued on page 18, col 7

Weather line threat, page 3

CBI warning of more job losses

BY TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

A PICTURE of deepening recession and rising unemployment was painted yesterday in separate reports from the Confederation of British Industry and Manpower, the country's biggest employment services company. The reports came as union leaders in key industries are preparing wage demands above the rate of inflation to maintain the living standards of their members.

The CBI said that the slowdown in earnings growth must continue in order to prevent a rising tide of redundancies becoming a flood. John Banham, director general of the CBI, told unions that to use the retail price index as a target in pay negotiations would put jobs at risk. "If such recklessness prevails there will be needless job losses. Pay must reflect performance."

In its report, Manpower said that employment prospects are at their worst since the beginning of 1983. Only one in ten employers are

expecting to recruit in the first three months of next year, half the number for the same period this year. At the same time, more than one firm in ten is expecting to announce job losses. Manpower, which interviewed 1,500 companies, said that in industry, the worst hit has been the public sector, with 15 per cent of firms expecting a decline in employment prospects. In service industries, 12 per cent of employers are expecting to dismiss staff compared with eight per cent who plan to recruit them.

The Manpower report says that manufacturing has the best employment prospects, with expected recruitment above the national average at 14 per cent. Prospects for the private building industry are, however, described as grim with 24 per cent of businesses planning job losses.

In spite of these warnings, leaders of powerful groups of employees, including manual workers in the electricity industry, have tabled double figure pay demands.

Meanwhile, John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, the country's second largest union, said yesterday that the TUC should shift towards providing services to affiliates and away from being a lobbyist in the corridors of power.

Mr Edmonds said that the TUC's role was being eroded because of the emergence of "super unions" and he suggested that it should concentrate on becoming a research, education and information service.

Banham: "Pay must reflect performance"

CBI report, page 19

Volunteers report, page 2

Gulf stalemate, page 9

Leading article, page 11

Letters, page 11

Rushdie says he is a Muslim

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SALMAN RUSHDIE, the author of *The Satanic Verses* still living in hiding under religious sentence of death for his book's alleged blasphemies, writes in *The Times* today: "I am certainly not a good Muslim. But I am able now to say that I am a Muslim."

The author describes his Christmas Eve meeting with six Muslim scholars, which led to his decision to affirm the basic tenets of Islam, as "a victory for compassion, understanding and tolerance". He says that it has started a process of reconciliation, and writes: "I believe that in the weeks and months to come the language of enmity will be replaced by the language of love." But he insists it would be wrong to withdraw his book from publication entirely, as his extremist Muslim critics have demanded and as one of the six scholars who attended the meeting again urged yesterday.

Shaikh Gamal Manna's Ali Solaiman of the London Central Mosque called for the withdrawal of "that offensive novel from circulation".

Rushdie writes, page 10

TODAY

Top dogs and underdogs

The year of the fallen prominent and the risen obscure, reviewed by George Hill and Sara Driver
PAGES 14, 15

Getting their skates on

The complete guide to keeping the children occupied during the school holiday, from skating to zoos via the best museums
PAGE 16

SATURDAY

Ah summer, ah bliss



Jan Morris, jaded by the Eighties, with a personal reflection on the warming and reinvigorating summer of 1990, a window through which hope was briefly glimpsed
SATURDAY REVIEW

The quiz as an art form

So, what is the record price for a civilian hat? Take on our art quiz of the year
WEEKEND LIVING

No leaves on the line?

Paul Knappe is in charge of British Rail's tracks, with the aim of protecting animals and plants and thereby cheering up passengers
WEEKEND LIVING

See the old year out and the new one in with *The Times*, which publishes normally on New Year's eve and New Year's day. Place an order to be sure of your copy

INSIDE

Labour vow on rights

Labour plans to unveil a charter of rights next month committing it to repeal the Official Secrets Act and to legislate for freedom of information early in a first Labour parliament.

The legislation would make information freely available unless disclosure infringes personal privacy or national security. Page 18

Threat to zoo

After a record operating deficit last year of £4.9 million, London Zoo, founded in 1827 as The Ark in the Park, may not survive without government help. But government sources indicate that more money is unlikely to be forthcoming. Page 5

MP indicted

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party was stained by scandal again when Toshiyuki Inamura, a former cabinet minister and a sitting MP, was indicted for evading 1.7 billion yen (£6.8 million) in taxes. Page 7

Nissan split

Nissan Motor Company of Japan is to cut links with Nissan UK, its sole distributor in Britain. Page 19

Brealey quits

Reg Brealey, Sheffield United chairman, resigned after agreeing to sell his majority shareholding to fellow director Paul Woolhouse. Page 28

Lewis injury

Chris Lewis is returning home from the second Test in Melbourne, Australia. He has a stress fracture of the back. England were all out for 352 in yesterday's play. Page 28

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Neanderthal man may reveal his bloodline

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE secrets of mankind's genetic lineage could be unlocked within five years, researchers are claiming. Scientists armed with new gene-screening techniques are studying blood-splattered tools which they believe carry the genetic code of Neanderthal man, a brutish, human-like creature that lived 35,000 to 100,000 years ago. Experts believe that these and other blood samples taken from natural history collections and from tools at sites in Australia, north America and the Middle East, may allow them to plot evolutionary maps, similar to the way that geneologists chart family trees.

Scientists may also be able to resolve some of life's most fundamental questions, including how

genetic diseases emerged and if Neanderthal man was the end of an evolutionary line or the forerunner of modern intelligent humans.

Matching genetic fragments from primitive man with those from ancient apes could help to pinpoint where in evolution animals crossed over to becoming humans and provide insights into human migration over thousands of years. The dating of the arrival of diseases such as syphilis and influenza may also become possible.

The work is being pioneered by a team from the Australian National University in Canberra, which is studying blood traces from tools discovered at various sites in the Middle East. Thomas Loy, the team leader and formerly of the Royal British Columbia museum in

Vancouver, identified the potential of studying ancient remains for blood samples while analysing the knives of the Pacific Northwest Indians who lived 1,000 years ago. Mr Loy believes that the research could ultimately reveal mankind's entire history.

The research is being aided by the discovery that blood can survive complete with its genetic code for millennia, as well as improved techniques for examining samples. Once the Australian scientists are convinced that the blood samples are human, they are subjected to DNA fingerprinting analysis to discover their genetic make-up.

Researchers at Sheffield University are also using powerful enzymes and have detected blood proteins in Saxon bones believed to be 1,000 years old. They say the technique offers a cheap,

easy and highly sensitive way of detecting even small amounts of blood protein in crushed, ancient, bone samples.

The work is producing spin-offs for zoologists and researchers studying ancient cultural history. Dr Loy's team has been studying samples from cave paintings in the Northwestern Territory and Judds Cavern in Tasmania dating from between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago. These are not only helping to show that blood pigments were used in art but also allow dating of the paintings.

Other blood samples are believed to be from a species of cow which became extinct in Europe in the 17th century. Others from sheep should allow zoologists studying ancient animals to distinguish them more easily from goats' remains.



One compelling reason for a diversified energy programme

The Middle East holds two-thirds of known oil reserves. Any instability in the region puts the world's oil markets on edge. And when oil prices start to rise, those of gas generally follow suit. By contrast the cost of nuclear power is unlikely to be affected by events in the Gulf. Uranium for Britain's nuclear power stations is mined in countries such as Canada, Australia and the USA. And the quantities of uranium needed are so small it is easy to keep supplies in reserve. It would be unwise to assume that the present oil crisis will be the last. It's reassuring, therefore, to know that nuclear power can help stabilise Britain's energy costs. If you would like to know more about nuclear energy, please send for our information pack.

Tel: 081-205 7090 for a free information pack.

Or write to: The British Nuclear Forum, 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.
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The voice of Britain's nuclear power industry.

Holiday price war a threat to small travel agencies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

LEADING travel agency chains were offering big reductions on summer holidays yesterday in a move that could mean the closure of many smaller independent agencies.

Companies such as Lunn Poly, Pickfords, Thomas Cook, and A.T. Mays are financing big discounts on next year's package deals with the commissions that they receive from tour operators and holiday insurance firms. Their aim is to maintain their share of a market hit by the recession and the continued decline in the number of families taking package holidays.

Travel agents usually receive about 10 per cent commission for every holiday they sell from the major tour operators, plus 15 per cent for every holiday insurance package they sell. With profit levels trimmed to the bare minimum the only "fat" left to cut was the commission, which will now be passed on to holidaymakers.

One of the effects, however, is to increase pressure on the small travel agent, who cannot afford to give up what is the main source of his income.

Industry experts believe that in 1991 hundreds will be forced to close by the price war that has broken out among the top six chains.

Although many of the protagonists in the battle were maintaining yesterday that the discounts were bringing in much needed additional custom, privately all admitted that business had been at best "patchy" and that everyone was suffering from the recession. Some reported that isolated travel agents in the South-East were doing well, while others said that the best business was in the Midlands. All agreed that Northerners were slow to take advantage of the holiday reductions.

Last year, 282 independent travel agents went out of business because of the price war among the big chains, and this is expected to be overtaken this year as rent reviews for freehold shops push up costs and the business rate begins to bite more severely. For holidaymakers, however, the price cuts are welcome news bringing many bargains.

Those companies offering holidays in Britain, are hopeful that 1991 will be a good

year because of a succession of hot summers that have convinced many thousands to stay at home. Almost three-quarters of holidaymakers believe that the British weather is not a consideration in their holiday choice, and 82 per cent expect better weather next year. The growing number of indoor swimming pools, luxury hotels and apartments, and good sports facilities mean that more than three-quarters would not be put off by bad weather, according to Hoesason.

Holidaymakers who still prefer to spend their summer break abroad were warned about some of the pitfalls yesterday in a new guide by the travel company Hogg Robinson. More than 1,650 hotels in 250 resorts were checked for the latest *Recommended Resort and Hotel Guide*. They included a hotel just 300 yards from an airport, and another described as fine "if you enjoy a holiday on the M25".

In spite of improvements towards higher quality with 98 per cent of hotels being recommended, 2 per cent appeared on the company's blacklist.



If the mask fits: Two of hundreds of Territorial Army volunteers at Aldershot yesterday getting a foretaste of what lies ahead in the Gulf

TA volunteers report for duty

By LIN JENKINS AND KERRY GILL

SOME were former regulars. Many had been members of the Territorial Army for years. Yesterday, they gathered at two TA centres, Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot, and in Glasgow, to offer to serve in the Gulf. Surgeons, physicians, anaesthetists, nurses,

medical technicians and administrative officers volunteered to leave the cold of a British winter for the heat and uncertainty of a posting in the Middle East.

Many were apprehensive. Most were leaving husbands, wives and children. Spirits were nevertheless high in spite of the prospect of war break-

ing out within days of their arrival in the desert. Cecilia Grossmith, aged 31, who left her post as major in the Royal Army Medical Corps 18 months ago after marrying, said she volunteered at Aldershot because the work was so important.

Colleagues at the practice at Ashford, Surrey, where she

has been working as a GP, were at first horrified by her decision, but have employed a locum during her absence. "It is hard on my patients, and most of them do not know that it has happened so quickly," Dr Grossmith said. "I'm not frightened about going to the Gulf, but I am worried about being too hot."

Alan Davies, aged 36, who is returning to the army as a theatre sister, said that he decided to leave his wife, three-year-old son and 18 months old twins, simply because he was needed. He was first asked to volunteer in October, but feels this time the financial position and security of his job in a private hospital at Brentwood, Essex, is better.

"After five years in the Territorial Army, I am hoping that if people like me volunteer they will not have to conscript anybody. It will be rather sad for the medical corps if they do. But we have no national service so there are not that many people trained for the job," he said.

Life has turned a full circle for Mavis Bordenkircher, a TA major, who yesterday joined more than 250 volunteers of the 205 (Scottish) General Hospital in Glasgow for mobilisation before flying to the Gulf. Major Bordenkircher, a ward sister at an Edinburgh hospital, said: "Naturally I feel a little trepidation but I have been a volunteer since I stepped into uniform in 1977."

The volunteer officers crowded into the TA centre to undergo the first stage in mobilisation before helping to set up a 600-bed field hospital in Saudi Arabia. After a security check they were given medical tests before speaking to welfare staff.

Captain Mike Everitt, RAMC unit mobilisation officer, said that some might have had family problems which would make them exempt from immediate service. Once through the administrative process they were subject to military law. The next step was to receive travel expenses, and the first day's pay which included a call-out gratuity of £210.

Scores of young nurses and doctors sat in rows patiently waiting for their combat suits, six sets of nuclear, biological and chemical protection suits each, and their helmets from the quartermaster's store.

Private Sandra Burns, aged 26, and her husband Patrick, aged 33, a sergeant, joined the TA nine years ago. They will leave their daughters, aged three and ten, behind in the care of Mrs Burns's mother. "The girls are well used to us going away because we have been on exercises ever since we joined the TA and they know we go away from home together quite a lot," Mrs Burns said.

Colonel Glynn Jones, a consultant physician in Kilmarock, is commanding officer of 205 (Scottish) General Hospital. He said that there would be no drain on health board resources because of mobilisation. The field hospital would have 16 surgical teams made up equally of men and women.

UK fuel supplies 'wasted'

Imports of fuel will exceed Britain's exports of coal and oil for the second successive year, according to figures produced yesterday by the Labour party.

Accusing the government of squandering resources, Labour urged ministers to switch their priority from energy sales to energy conservation. Frank Dobson, the shadow energy spokesman, said that the value of Britain's fuel trade has declined from a surplus of £6,132 million in 1985 to a projected surplus of £310 million in 1990.

Heart hopes

Transplant specialists are hopeful that a new heart will be found for Christy Strachan, a ten-day-old baby of New Barnet, north London, within the next few days. After a national appeal, there has been a rise in the number of donor organs available through the UK Transplant Co-ordinating Centre in Bristol. He has hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a congenital and incurable defect.

Teaching threat

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers yesterday threatened to oppose government plans for staff appraisal unless they are accompanied by big changes in pay and conditions. It has asked the interim advisory committee, which makes recommendations on teachers' pay and conditions, to oppose the plans unless such changes are introduced.

Plea for disabled

The TUC today calls on the government to introduce new laws to protect the disabled from discrimination and says they should be protected by the creation of a minister to review new and existing legislation. The TUC says that less than one in four employers meets the quota scheme, under which 3 per cent of every workforce of more than 20 employees must consist of disabled people.

Cars are recalled

Toyota yesterday recalled more than 17,000 cars after engineers discovered a fault which could reduce handbrake performance. All Carina models built between December 1987 and February 1990, will be modified free of charge. A spokesman said: "The floor around the handbrake mounting could deform and in the worst possible case handbrake performance reduced."

Drugs find

A drug smuggler is believed to have drowned in heavy seas after £100,000-worth of cannabis was found in a hold-all on a beach between Thorpe Ness and Sizewell, Suffolk. It was discovered near a rubber dingy and an outboard motor. Police believe it might have been part of an operation to land drugs.

Thatcher tops radio's Woman of Year poll

By RICHARD FORD and PETER VICTOR

MARGARET Thatcher was yesterday voted Woman of the Year for the fifth consecutive year in BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme poll.

Even this victory, however, was haunted by the man who led the challenge to her leadership of the Tory party, for rumour had it that Michael Heseltine will this morning be named Man of the Year in *Today's* annual contest.

Listeners made Mary Robinson, the Irish Republic's first woman president, run-

ner-up to Mrs Thatcher, with Tracy Edwards, the yachtswoman, third. Jill Morrell, campaigner for the release of the hostage John McCarthy, was fourth, with Kate Adie, the BBC reporter, fifth.

Winning The Times crossword
Across: 1. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 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Cardiff draws itself a role in expanding cartoon industry

Children throughout the world are enjoying cartoons made in Cardiff that are providing Wales with a new cottage industry, Melinda Wittstock reports

AS MINES and steel mills in Wales were closing in the Eighties, animators in Cardiff were creating cartoon characters that have won the principality new fame. *Fireman Sam*, *SuperTed* and *Wyl Cwac Cwac*, eight years ago just a twinkle in the eyes of their creators, have become children's favourites everywhere. The high-quality cartoons, made in Welsh before being dubbed into almost every language and snapped up by the Disney Channel, are now avidly watched all over the world on television and video cassette. Thanks to S4C, the Welsh commercial television channel created in 1982 as a sister to Channel 4, Cardiff is home to a thriving cottage industry, and Britain has become a significant player in the wonderful world that had belonged almost exclusively to Walt Disney and Warner Brothers. Five animation houses and 45 independent production com-

panies have sprung up with the financial backing of S4C, luring many talented freelance artists away from London and a precarious living from cartoon commercials. Cardiff art schools have been raided for talented students. Now, as children read, or play with, spin-offs from *SuperTed* and *Wyl Cwac Cwac*, international co-production export money flows back to finance still more ambitious projects. Only two full-length animation features were made in Britain throughout the 1970s, but four are being made this year in Wales alone. S4C, which has grossed £1 million on *Fireman Sam*, the BBC's top-selling video last year, has £3.5 million riding on new projects and international co-productions. These will take Welsh animation far beyond children's cartoons, according to Christopher Grace, S4C's head of animation. A £2.5 million animated dram-



Moving pictures: A Cardiff animator viewing a "cell" from the cartoon *Body Beautiful*

atisation of six Shakespeare plays, produced by two Welsh animators and Moscow's Soyuzmultfilm studio for release in 1992, breaks all cartoon clichés. A riveting, moody 60-second "animatic" of the opening witches scene of

Macbeth, costing £30,000 to produce, had enough American and German buyers queuing at S4C's door for the channel to commission animated versions of *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tempest* and *Hamlet*. Some of the half-hour Shakespeare films will be painted on glass to give a fluid, ethereal look that cannot be achieved by cell-animation techniques. Others will use models. Dave Edwards, the renowned

animator who cut his teeth on *Yellow Submarine* and recently turned down a takeover offer from Disney for his Siriol Animations team in Cardiff, is not stopping with Shakespeare. Together with S4C and the American MCA, he is producing the first full-length animated feature commissioned by a Hollywood studio from outside America: *The Little Engine That Could*. Other Hollywood studios are lined up for co-production deals for two of his other projects, *Hot Dog*, a cartoon series about a canine car, and *The Radio Adventures of J.P. Jones*, in which a boy's imagination takes him into a strange world of adventure as he listens to a detective story on the radio. Robin Lyons, of Cardiff's Siriol Productions, is busy on a production by S4C and Hungary's Pannonia Studios of *The Princess and the Goblin*, a full-length fairy tale with the voices of Rik Mayall and Claire Bloom. S4C's ambitions to produce high-class adult animation will soon be realised with a version by Mr Lyons of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*. Using the Richard Burton soundtrack of the

play, recorded by the BBC in 1954, it will be a moody and imaginative £750,000 full-length feature "pitched entirely at adults", says Mr Lyons. Channel 4's interest in adult animation has provided a showcase for the talents of both Joanna Hirst and Candy Guard, two feminist animators who have each won awards for their short, satirical pieces. In Miss Hirst's character Beryl, a disgruntled working-class housewife, features in *Girls' Night Out* and in *Body Beautiful* and is likely to appear in a series in which she goes to the Costa del Sol and to the Bronx. Cardiff animators, now involved in £9.5 million worth of productions in the next two to three years, have become so successful that commissions are coming in faster than they can do them. "We have a serious skills shortage," Mr Edwards says. Geraint Stanley-Jones, chief executive of S4C, wants to combine the older Welsh musical tradition with its newer one. "No one has yet been able to translate music to the TV screen creatively or successfully. We are going to interpret music visually," he said.

Five children die in caravan explosion and tragedy at canal

By DAVID YOUNG

FIVE young children died yesterday in two accidents, three from one family after falling into a canal and two others in a blazing caravan as their father tried to rescue them.

The three children, two girls aged six and eight and a baby boy aged seven months, fell into Southcote lock at Burghfield, near Reading, Berkshire.

The mother, who was taken to hospital suffering from shock, told a woman police officer that she had been walking along the tow path of the Kennet and Avon canal with the baby in her arms.

Her two older children were walking ahead when both lost their footing and slipped into the water. The mother tried to grab them but failed and also lost her grip of the baby, which fell into the water.

Police said that the woman, in a desperate attempt to save them, all went into the water herself but scrambled back on to the bank and ran to a fisherman to raise the alarm.

Police said the lock was more

than 400 yards from the nearest road or house. The family lived in Tilehurst, Reading.

Ambulance men comforted the mother and gave her sedatives before taking her to the Royal Berkshire hospital, Reading, where doctors gave her further medication.

Police managed to trace the father of the children - who was fishing on another waterway in the Reading area. They took him to the hospital and detectives were waiting with him to question the wife.

The fisherman pulled the body of the six-year-old girl from the lock and police and ambulance men found the body of the baby boy soon after.

Police divers recovered the body of the eight-year-old girl after water authority workers were called in to partly drain the 15ft deep lock.

The two children who died in the caravan fire were named as Cheryl Cannon, aged three, and her two-year-old sister Nicki. They were still in their beds when

firemen found them. Alan Cannon, aged 24, had looked on as the family's mobile home burst into flames, knowing his daughters were trapped inside.

He immediately smashed down the door but was beaten back by thick smoke and passed out. Mr Cannon and his wife Tracy, aged 21, who is eight months pregnant, had left the caravan for a few minutes just after midnight to brew a cup of tea in a nearby office.

They had been living on the Chequers Lane industrial estate in Dagenham, Essex, since October while Mr Cannon worked as a security guard for a haulage firm on the site.

The couple had to use the office to make meals because the caravan was furnished only with beds and a gas heater. They ran outside when an explosion, possibly caused by the heater, ripped the mobile home apart.

Mr Cannon was taken to Oldchurch hospital, Romford, suffering from smoke inhalation with his wife who was in shock. They are expected to be detained for at least two days.

The site owner Bill Weekes, aged 43, of Dagenham, said: "Alan and Tracy were making a cup of tea because there were no facilities in the caravan. They are a lovely couple, devoted to their children. They adored them. There is no way they would ever have left them in any danger."

Firemen said the cause of the fire was still not known but it was not being treated as suspicious. A father and son were killed and a third person seriously injured yesterday in a road accident involving two cars and a lorry on the A51 at Stamford Bridge near Chester.

Police in Cheshire said that the identities of the casualties would not be released until today.



Firemen searching for one of the bodies at Southcote lock

Weatherline threatened with closure

By RONALD FAUX

THE Lake District national park weatherline, which warns hill walkers of treacherous weather, might have to close for want of a sponsor.

The weatherline, which the mountain rescue service believes has saved lives, is used by 250,000 walkers a year. In yesterday's severe weather, those who wanted to know the conditions on Helvellyn (3,113ft), one of the country's most popular mountains, need only have picked up a telephone to learn that it was covered in fresh snow with ice underfoot, storm-force winds, a high wind chill factor and poor visibility.

This information was available only because Sue Thompson, a national park ranger, climbed Helvellyn to check and bring the report up to date.

Stewart Hulse, leader of the Langdale and Ambleside mountain rescue team, said that it would be a terrible loss if the service ended. "It allows people to check if it is worthwhile setting out. If you've driven all the way from London to climb a mountain the temptation to press on regardless of the weather is great and that is when accidents happen. A forecast is vital before setting out into the hills in winter."

The Lake District service costs £15,000-£20,000 a year to provide. However, the national park fears that loss of sponsorship by a chocolate company will mean the service moving to a more expensive premium charge rate, making it less attractive, or that it will have to be abandoned.

Road scheme protest grows

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE growing attack on the environmental consequences of the government's £17 billion roads programme is intensified today with a report calling for the scrapping of present methods of appraising road projects.

The government's system for deciding which roads to build is undemocratic, biased and works against the interests of the environment, the report, commissioned by a group of five wildlife trusts in southeast England and their parent body, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, says.

Present appraisal procedures, based largely on monetary cost-benefit analysis, are far too narrow and should be replaced with a fairer scheme allowing public transport alternatives to be assessed, more emphasis given to the environment and decisions made after more public debate.

The study, by Stephen Atkins, lecturer in transport planning at Southampton university, is the latest in a series of attacks on the extensive construction programme announced last year in the white paper, *Roads for Prosperity*.

A study produced for the same group in September showed that the programme threatens 372 important wildlife sites in nine southern counties alone, half supposedly protected, and that if the pattern were repeated for the whole country, more than 1,500 such sites would be put at risk. In October the National Trust said the programme threatened 30 of its estates or historic properties. Later that month the continuing destruction of wildlife sites by roadbuilding was publicly attacked by the Prince of Wales.

Environmental fears have been heightened by the government's decision to press ahead with several schemes, including the driving of the M3 motorway

through Twyford Down in Hampshire and the extension of the A20 dual carriageway along the top of the white cliffs of Dover.

KPMG Peat Marwick, a firm of management consultants appointed to help to prepare new guidelines for environmental good practice for various government departments, is still to make its recommendations.

Rupert Harwood, the wildlife trusts' transport campaigner, said: "The current appraisal system has devastated the environment, wasted billions of pounds and undermined democratic decision-making. Bureaucrats are making decisions that should be made by elected politicians. We are calling upon the government to abandon this archaic and disastrous system."

Unspoken Decrees: Road Appraisal, Democracy and the Environment (Wildlife Trusts Transport Campaign, 80 York Way, London N1 9AG; £3.50)

Business outside London was better and the retail industry is hoping that the January sales will help to compensate for its worst Christmas for ten years. Early indications are that bad weather and the recession are keeping most

shoppers at home for a few more days, leaving the bargains in London to the tourists.

A spokesman for the Marble Arch Traders' Association said: "We all had a bad Christmas. Shoppers have been very clever this year and waited for the sales. They are also moving away from the big stores to the smaller quality traders but hard by the recession and forced to make huge cuts. American, French, and Scandinavian tourists in particular are lapping up goods in the higher price range."

There are fewer signs of concern about the recession in the Midlands, where traders are hoping for near-record profits. In Birmingham city centre, car parks were full by mid-morning.

At the Merry Hill centre at Dudley, West Midlands, one of Britain's biggest shopping precincts, a queue of more than 600 shoppers formed outside Debenhams before the doors opened. There were also early morning queues outside stores in Reading, Berkshire.

In Hull hundreds of people had to cancel a trip to the sales after 300 gypsies set up camp at the main bus terminal and bus managers had to cancel a special "park and ride" service for shoppers to the city centre.

Europe's biggest shopping mall, the MetroCentre at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was crowded with shoppers. A spokesman said that sales might have been helped by bad weather in the region. Appalling weather appeared to dampen enthusiasm for the sales in the centre of Belfast, where crowds were markedly lighter than in recent years. Retailers described trading as "brisk".

Donald Weedon serving gentleman's relish at the Gieves & Hawkes sale

Leading article, page 11

Shoppers thin on ground as recession hits winter sales

By DAVID YOUNG

HIGH street traders continued to feel the chill wind of the economic recession yesterday as they opened their doors for the winter sales to find few people queuing.

Department stores throughout the country were crowded but in London, where bargain-hunters traditionally wait for days to make sure of their special buy, only the homeless spent the night on the pavements.

In Oxford Street, Selfridges opened its door to a queue of only 200 people in spite of hiring a jazz band to woo the bargain-hunters. A spokesman for the store said,

however, that it was hoped that 100,000 shoppers would have passed through its doors by the end of the day.

Debenhams also had few bargain-hunters waiting when doors opened at 9am but, later in the day, said that menswear and household goods were in particular demand. Liberty, in Regent Street, said that takings were slightly up on last year. Sarah Wells, a student, bought a silk wedding dress for £150 - £280 less than the original price. At stores such as Jaeger and Aquascutum there were no big queues when the doors opened, although business was brisker later.

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Leading article, page 11

Overseas campaign to attract more pupils

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MAJOR overseas recruiting campaign is to be launched next year aimed at increasing boarding school rolls and saving some schools from closure.

The number of full boarders, who pay average fees of £9,000 a year, has consistently fallen since the second world war and now stands at 93,000 of the 475,000 pupils in schools represented by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis). In 1982 there were 112,000 boarders out of 404,000 pupils. The fall has been only partly compensated by the growth of weekly boarding, which now accounts for 10,000 children.

Next year's campaign will be directed at the Far East and Europe, including the nations of eastern Europe. Representatives of Isis will attend three international exhibitions, in Düsseldorf, Taiwan and Kuala Lumpur, in an attempt to improve overseas recruiting, seen as essential if boarding numbers are to be increased and schools saved.

The big-name schools are not affected, but smaller schools in remote areas where there is no readily accessible area of population for 50 or 60 miles face the threat of closure.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said that numbers of overseas students had been affected by political changes in traditional markets such as Iran, and by the aggressive marketing of schools in America and Australia. In 1982 there were 33,500 overseas pupils, representing 4.4 per cent of pupils, but this year the figure fell to 22,700, fewer than 3 per cent.

An increase in students from abroad would have to be matched by better marketing at home, Dr Woodhead said. "Boarding schools have got to market themselves more effectively in the United Kingdom quite apart from looking outside. They have to see what the market wants."

"There are some boarding schools which are still against weekly boarding as they think it diminishes the whole ethos of boarding. As the number of parents looking for full boarding diminishes, the schools have to cater for the new type of parent, where both work and can see the advantages of boarding but want their children home at the weekend. It is better for the school to make that change willingly than to be forced into it."

Mutant turtle eggs may pose salmonella health risk

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of turtle eggs exported from America to be hatched into pets may harbour drug-resistant strains of salmonella bacteria that can cause serious illness, particularly in children.

According to a recent study in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, American turtle farmers are unwittingly breeding pets with antibiotic-resistant strains of the bacteria. Canadian health department scientists isolated 37 salmonella strains in 40,000 eggs

imported into Canada and found that all but seven were resistant to gentamicin, one of the most widely used antibiotics.

The study says that such high levels of antibiotic-resistant bacteria pose a serious human health risk. "Further marketing of turtle eggs and hatchlings should be curtailed until consistent production and distribution of salmonella-free stocks can be assured."

Five years ago the US Food and Drug Administration banned the domestic sale of turtles less than four inches long after researchers

found that almost 15 per cent of human salmonella cases in America could be attributed to contact with the pets. However turtle egg exports were not prohibited.

Robert Tauxe, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia, said baby turtles might look harmless but they were biological sponges of salmonella. Five million baby turtles and eggs were exported to Europe, Asia and South America last year and the demand is higher this year, probably because of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

film. The mutant problem began because farmers, anxious to eradicate salmonella from the turtles, overused their eggs with antibiotics to which the bacteria developed resistance.

Adults are unlikely to suffer from the bacteria but children, whose natural defences against infection are not fully developed, are more vulnerable to symptoms of abdominal cramps, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Ronald Siebeling, a microbiologist at Louisiana state university, who developed the treatment for

the eggs, said that misuse of the drugs by farmers could lead to a big public health problem, and that was not acceptable.

Turtle-linked illness has not yet surfaced as a health problem in this country but the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said that the film was boosting the sale of their terrapin cousins, also known to be salmonella carriers. About 1,000 of the common snapper species of American turtle are imported into Britain each year as aquarium and pond pets.

Leading article, page 11

Kasparov triumphs in long-running duel of champions

GARY Kasparov, the defending world chess champion, has finally imposed his dominance on Anatoly Karpov after a duel that has spanned five encounters and half a decade.

Their first match began in Moscow in the winter of 1984 and was terminated on February 15 after 48 games with no final result. Kasparov, who had emerged from earlier doldrums, had won two games in a row and was predictably not amused.

His revenge came at Moscow in 1985 when, at the age of 22, he beat Karpov to become the youngest world champion. In return matches held in London and Leningrad in 1986 and Seville in 1987, Kasparov fought off Karpov but only by the narrowest of margins.

In Lyons, Kasparov's fiery genius has now produced an incontrovertible victory, being two points ahead with two games remaining, and having already secured the 12 points needed for retention

Gary Kasparov, the world's greatest chess player, has not seen the last of challenger Anatoly Karpov, Raymond Keene writes

of the world championship. The quality of chess played in this match has been equal if not superior to that in any former world championship match. Kasparov, aged 27, from Baku in Azerbaijan, must now be regarded as the greatest player in chess history.

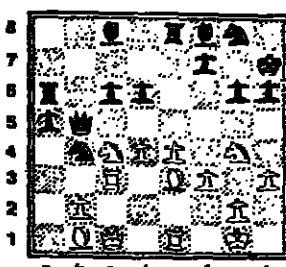
This match fell into two halves. The first 12 games were played in New York, with the remainder in Lyons. During the early rounds of the New York leg Kasparov was supremely dominant, his early successes epitomised by the second game. Here Kasparov made clear that he

believed Karpov's weak point to be his black defence in the Ruy Lopez opening, which he used repeatedly during the match.

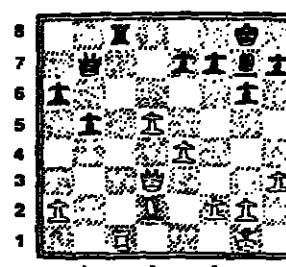
The key moment of the second game came when Kasparov sacrificed his bishop on move 25 with the move Bxb6 (see diagram). This move started a mighty offensive that swept Karpov away. In spite of this brilliant start, the remainder of the leg did not go all Kasparov's way.

He became bogged down in Karpov's excellent defensive technique and threw away many promising positions as he became frustrated at his opponent's refusal to crack under pressure. Kasparov lost game 7 after an uncharacteristic blunder, and after 12 games the scores stood level at six points each.

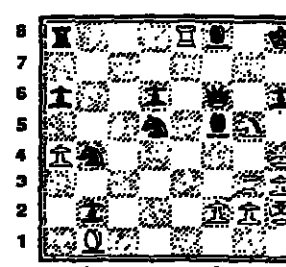
With the switch to Lyons the weight seemed to fall from Kasparov's shoulders. After 17 games, however, Karpov was still even. In game 17 (see diagram) with



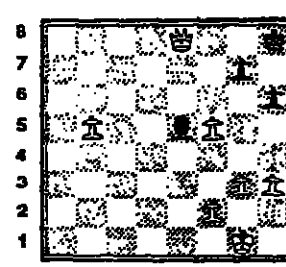
Game 2: the position before 25 Bxb6



Game 17: the position before 26 Rc6



Game 20: the position before 34 Qxb6+



Game 22: the position after the agreed draw

Karpov playing white, Karpov, after move 26 by playing Rc6, ensured penetration of Kasparov's camp. A few moves later Karpov reduced the black position to a shambles and forced Kasparov's resignation.

It was at this stage that the world champion started to take control. In game 20 (see diagram) Kasparov made a dramatic breakthrough culminating in the brilliant sacrifice of his queen to shatter Karpov's fortifications. The diagram shows the position after Kasparov, on move 31,

played Qxb6+. This queen sacrifice, rare at such a high level of chess, finally broke Karpov's resistance. The challenger had now gone two points down and although he strained every nerve in games 21 and 22 he could do no more than draw. The draw in game 22 gave Kasparov the title.

These two grandmasters are titans in the chess world. Kasparov, however, has the advantage of youth and has won four of his five world championship matches. He is 12 years younger than

Karpov, which gives him an edge in mental agility.

Furthermore, Karpov has never quite adjusted to the modern era of computer information, preferring to play on his own instincts. Kasparov, however, is a computer addict, whose headquarters are stacked with computer database chess moves. Kasparov has not just accumulated such information, he also knows how to retrieve it and utilise it to great effect.

All this, however, is unlikely to end Karpov's quest

for revenge and it will be surprising if he does not return as a challenger in 1993 when Kasparov must defend his title.

□ The deciding game 22 started with Kasparov, playing white, using the Ruy Lopez opening. By move 27, Karpov had established a phalanx of black pawns in the heart of the white position.

Kasparov, however, then sacrificed a piece to transform the game and on the 39th move forced a draw by perpetual check with his

queen. Although Kasparov's lead is unassailable, the prize fund of \$3 million (£1.6 million) will be divided according to the final number of points scored by each player. Game 23 is scheduled for tomorrow and game 24 for Monday.

□ The Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster tournament, Britain's premier grandmaster event, opens at Hastings today.

Kasparov (White)	White	Karpov (Black)	Black
1st	24	24	24
2nd	24	24	24
3rd	24	24	24
4th	24	24	24
5th	24	24	24
6th	24	24	24
7th	24	24	24
8th	24	24	24
9th	24	24	24
10th	24	24	24
11th	24	24	24
12th	24	24	24
13th	24	24	24
14th	24	24	24
15th	24	24	24
16th	24	24	24
17th	24	24	24
18th	24	24	24
19th	24	24	24
20th	24	24	24
21st	24	24	24
22nd	24	24	24

Leading article, page 11

London Zoo in funding appeal to avoid closure

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

LONDON Zoo, which last year had a record operating deficit of £4.9 million, might not survive without government financial help.

Government sources indicate, however, that more money is unlikely after a 1988 agreement that visitor attractions at the zoo should be self-financing, although the education and science department will continue to support the research-orientated Institute of Zoology with a grant next year of £1.4 million.

Only two years after the environment department provided a "final" rescue package of £10 million and absolved itself of future support, the Zoological Society of London is expected to appeal for more before the end of the financial year in April.

At a meeting in March between Lord Peyton of Yeovil, treasurer of the society, and Chris Patten, at that time the environment secretary, Mr Patten merely advised further management consultations. Lord Peyton said: "We can't be sure the zoo will survive until the end of the century. One or two more

years of bad results and the shadow of closure would return. There are major problems and it's difficult to see our way round them."

The £4.9 million operating deficit, which covers London Zoo and its sister wildlife centre, Whipsnade Park, was reduced to a more manageable £2 million after account was taken of interest payments. However, dire predictions are again surfacing at the zoo where attendances have fallen to 1.2 million a year from more than 3 million in the zoo's heyday in 1950.

Lord Peyton said: "When we went to see Chris Patten, we saw the situation as grave. We still have money but it was prudent to present the matter again to the new secretary of state, Michael Heseltine." In Mr Heseltine's society might hope for a sensitive response, for he served on the board of Zoo Operations Ltd, the society's subsidiary company, until his recent appointment to the cabinet.

As part of the strategy agreed in 1988 between the society and the government, Zoo Operations was formed as the society's operations arm to provide what visitors want. Visitor-orientated aspects of management were contracted out to the Grant Leisure Group, which has been responsible for much of the revolution at the zoo in the late 1980s. More than £4 million has also been spent in a marketing campaign to bring new dimensions to the zoo.

In spite of these innovations, however, David Jones, director of London Zoo and Whipsnade Park, said: "For various reasons we have not been able to increase our income to the point where we are not losing money. If we do not get further support, then clearly we have to think about the options, which might include closing down."

The society has also been hampered by the zoo's history, not least the fact that much of the zoo consists of protected buildings, and by the objection of local residents to leisure expansion. Planning restrictions and local pressure could lead to a switch of resources to Whipsnade where there is more scope for development. That could mean the end of London Zoo, where it costs £6,000 a year to feed an elephant and £15 an ant out of a total feeding bill of £750,000.

LPO grant from Arts Council reduced

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE London Philharmonic Orchestra has had its Arts Council grant cut for next year in what is seen as a criticism of its programme.

Yesterday's announcement of the last big grants for 1991-2 will be taken as a further slight to the South Bank Centre in the council's distribution of £194 million of subsidy to its 173 clients.

The council funds the four big London orchestras on a "concert-by-concert" basis. The LPO's grant of £465,000 has been reduced by 0.65 per cent to £462,000, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's increased by 5.5 per cent from £435,000 to £460,000. The Philharmonia's grant also rises, by 5.4 per cent from £540,000 to £569,000. All of the orchestras serve the South Bank and none will get anything from the Arts Council's new enhancement fund.

The fourth, the Barbican-based London Symphony Orchestra, will get an 8 per cent increase on its basic grant of £600,000, rising to £648,000, plus £400,000 from the enhancement fund, making a total increase of 75 per cent. John Wilan, managing director of the LPO, said: "I find this allocation very puzzling and we will be discussing it with the Arts Council." The LPO is to become the South Bank Centre's resident orchestra in April 1992. "We understand that we shall get a substantial increase in our subsidy for when we move into the South Bank, but the reasons for our basic grant being reduced at this point is difficult to understand."



Indian winter: to complement an exhibition on the Raj, the National Portrait Gallery is running a series of Indian dance classes for children until tomorrow. The teacher Srijata Banerjee is seen with Raphael Pepper, a pupil

Makers want new-car tax scrapped to boost sales

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR makers are urging Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to drop the 10 per cent tax on new cars to revive flagging sales and encourage the scrapping of old, more polluting vehicles.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says that sales of new cars will fall further next year after a decline of more than 12 per cent this year caused by high interest rates and the recession. Sales, which peaked at 2.3 million last year, are expected to fall to 1.9 million next year, putting further pressure on manufacturers already bringing in short-time working and redundancies.

The 10 per cent special car tax brings in about £2 billion for the Exchequer. Car makers are arguing, however, that the government should trade the tax income for reviving Britain's biggest manufacturing

industry. In turn this would encourage the introduction of more environmentally friendly vehicles. The society says that models in showrooms create only half the pollution of those built a decade ago, with fuel consumption up to 30 per cent better.

A recent survey for the Royal Automobile Club showed that half the pollution blamed on cars came from under 17 per cent of vehicles, which were suffering from poor engine maintenance and tuning.

The fleet industry, however, says that older cars cannot be taxed to cut pollution and should be forced off the road by tighter regulation. Bill Hamer, managing director of the contract hire company ACL, which runs fleets totalling 12,000 cars, says that shorter-life vehicles are

needed to bring the benefits of "green" engine technology on to the roads more quickly.

He said: "More than eight million cars are seven or more years old. At the present rate old cars are finally laid to rest, it will be after the year 2,000 before Britain's national fleet complies with either today's new car emissions standards or the progressively stiffer ones affecting models built later in the decade."

Car manufacturers believe that Mr Lamont will move against the special car tax in his March budget but want him to adopt a general policy of less taxation on cars.

Simon Foster, director of the society, said: "If the government and the public are really longing to see the introduction of cleaner technology, then it is available in the range of new cars coming on to the roads."

Canadian brings discrimination case

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A RACE relations tribunal in Cardiff is to hear the first case in Britain of alleged discrimination against a person because he is Canadian. The hearing will be the culmination of a six-year dispute at the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Professor Arthur McConnell, head of strings at the Cardiff college, has brought the case against South Glamorgan county council because he says that his career has been blighted. He alleges that Peter Fletcher, the former principal, removed his main responsibility

and tried to oust him from his job out of prejudice against Canadians.

A second action, against Mr Fletcher, was decreed out of time at a preliminary hearing in March. Professor McConnell is, however, pursuing a separate action alleging defamation by his former principal.

The dispute dates back to the arrival of Mr Fletcher at the college in 1984 and his rapid introduction of changes. Professor McConnell was among the first staff to feature in the reorganisation. He said:

"I was in charge of the orchestra and most of the musical activities. They hired someone to take my place and took the substance of my job away from me."

Relations between the two men continued to deteriorate after the council held an inconclusive enquiry into their dispute. A final warning of dismissal against Professor McConnell was withdrawn after threats of industrial action by lecturers and the intervention of council officials.

Mr Fletcher took early retirement last year and is now

thought to be living abroad. He did not attend the preliminary hearing and it is not known whether he will return for the tribunal.

Professor McConnell, who has not returned to his former duties, is being supported by his union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, and the Commission for Racial Equality.

The tribunal is due to hear the case on January 7. The council is refusing to comment until the proceedings are complete.

Alcohol boost for cars cuts pollution

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FUEL additives made from trees and plants can reduce pollution from motor vehicles, researchers said yesterday. Tests indicate that adding methanol and ethanol derivatives to petrol can significantly reduce carbon and other pollutants.

The preliminary findings are the result of tests carried out by American researchers with methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), a product of methanol, and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE), a derivative of ethanol fermented from corn. Scientists at Mobil Oil and General Motors added 15 per cent of the methanol derivative to the fuel of cars dating from 1989 and also to cars built between 1983 and 1985.

The alcohol-derived chemical cut carbon emissions from all ages of cars by 10 per cent, and smog-forming hydrocarbons by 3 per cent in the newer cars and 7 per cent in the older models.

Ian Berwick, director-general of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association in London, said that MTBE was already being used in countries such as Germany and Holland.

In Britain it is being used sparingly to boost the octane and performance of cars running on lead-free petrol.

Two killed as plane crashes near road

A pilot and passenger were killed when their light aircraft crashed and exploded close to a main road yesterday. The Cessna 150 came down in a field 100 yards from the A34 at Bullington Cross, near Whitechurch, Hampshire.

Rescuers were unable to save the two people on the blazing aircraft. The Cessna from the Dan Air flying club had taken off from Lasham airfield, Hampshire.

Hospital remand

A computer researcher accused of driving into the gates of Buckingham Palace was remanded to hospital until January 16 under the mental health act by Bow Street magistrates. Edward Coates, aged 28, of Godalming, Surrey, is charged with criminal damage.

Drink-drive ban

Magistrates in Coalville, Leicestershire, jailed Donald Mackenzie, aged 33, of Shirley, West Midlands, for five months and banned him from driving for 15 years when he was convicted of his fifth drink-driving offence.

Body found

The body of Shaheed Ahmed, aged 16, who drowned when he fell into a river near his home in Edgaston, Birmingham, on Christmas day, has been found, police said.

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RATE

NET
RATE

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£10,000 - £24,999

£5,000 - £9,999

Annually
Annually
Annually
Annually

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14.50%
14.00%
13.50%

11.25%
10.8%
10.50%
10.12%

PREMIUM INCOME ACCOUNT

(Monthly income account)

£25,000+

£10,000 - £24,999

£5,000 - £9,999

Monthly
Monthly
Monthly

14.00%
13.50%
13.00%

10.50%
10.12%
9.75%

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account)

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£10,000+

£10,000 - £29,999

£5,000 - £20,999

£2,500 - £9,999

£500 - £2,499

£2,000 - £4,999

£1 - £499

Annually
Monthly
Annually
Monthly
Annually
Monthly
Annually

13.00%
12.20%
12.50%
11.84%
12.25%
11.61%
11.50%
10.93%
9.00%

9.75%
9.21%
9.37%
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9.18%
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Full details of all investment accounts are available from any branch office of the Society or from the Chief Office at the address shown below.

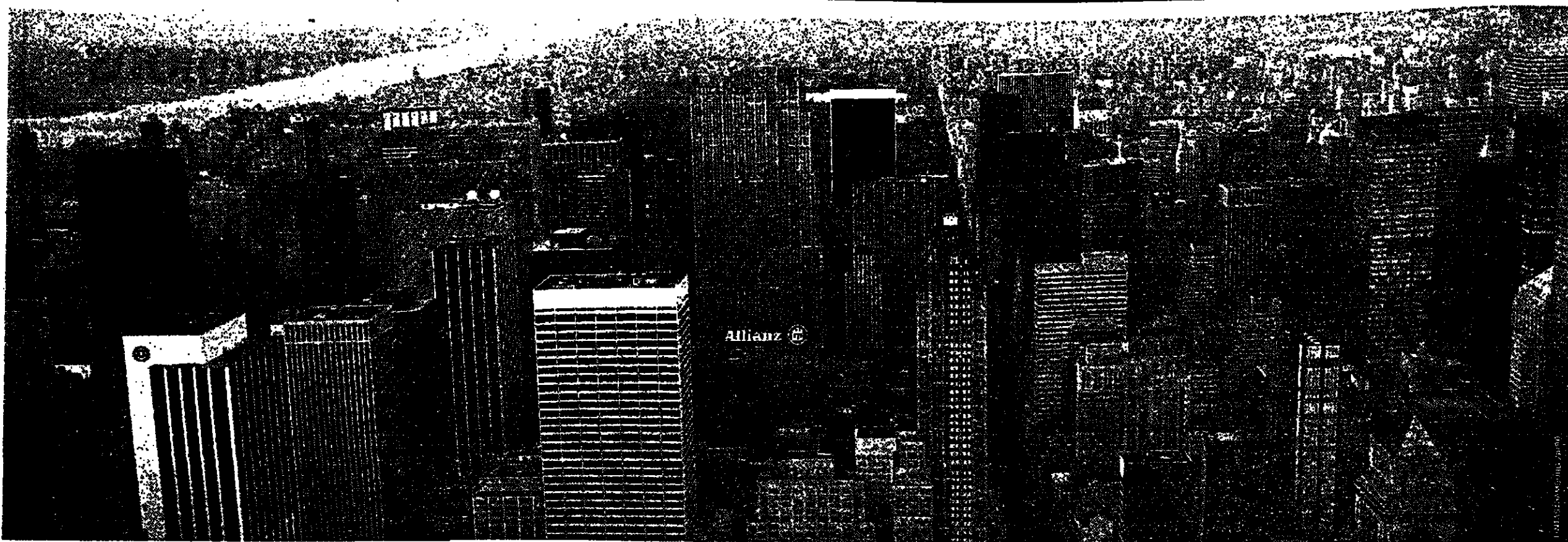
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Cash in on
to make
Japanese
multiply

Black Chr taps ritual

SEARCHING for the roots of the African-American community in the United States, a group of scholars and activists have turned to the study of the Kwanzaa festival. Kwanzaa, a celebration of African heritage, is observed annually from December 26 to January 1. It was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a prominent African-American scholar and activist. The festival is based on the Swahili word 'kwanza', which means 'first'. Karenga has argued that Kwanzaa is a necessary part of the African-American cultural renaissance. He has said that the festival is a way for African-Americans to reconnect with their roots and to celebrate their achievements. Kwanzaa is celebrated in many parts of the United States, particularly in the urban centers of the Northeast and the Midwest. It is a time when families gather together to share stories and to celebrate the lives of their ancestors. Karenga has said that Kwanzaa is a way for African-Americans to take pride in their heritage and to build a sense of community. He has said that the festival is a way for African-Americans to show the world that they are proud of who they are and where they come from. Kwanzaa is a celebration of the African-American experience and a testament to the resilience of the African-American community.

Tax evasion case against ex-minister stuns Tokyo

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party was stunned by scandal again yesterday, when Toshiyuki Inamura, a former cabinet minister and a sitting MP, was indicted for allegedly evading 1.7 billion yen (£6.8 million) in taxes.

The big sum has shocked the Japanese, even though politicians rank among the country's richest and least respected people.

The indictment is a setback for the Liberal Democratic Party. They had been hoping to find a way to win the imminent cabinet reshuffle for MPs sullied by last year's Recruit bribery scandal. They felt that the MPs tainted by this had served their time in the wilderness, and could now be welcomed back on the front benches. Mr Inamura's reminder of the blurred border between politics and money in Japan will make such a return politically difficult.

Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, said last night that he disapproved of Mr Inamura's actions. Opposition parties demanded Mr Inamura's resignation from parliament. Tokyo public prosecutors claimed yesterday that Mr Inamura dodged the taxman after running up profits of 2.8 billion yen from allegedly dubious stock deals carried out on the advice of Mitsubishi Kotani, a colourful share speculator who was arrested recently on charges of insider share trading.

If convicted, Mr Inamura faces a backdated tax bill and penalties of more than 2 billion yen.

Mr Inamura has been watching the chaos develop around him from a secret address in Tokyo. Without a complex legal process, MPs cannot be arrested while parliament is in session. But Tokyo public prosecutors gave him little doubt about his future when they raided his homes and offices last week, and then interrogated him on his stock dealings between 1986 and 1988.

For the first half of this period he was environment minister in the cabinet of Yasuhiro Nakasone. Through-out those three years, Mr Inamura was allegedly trading in stocks almost every day, often from his office in the parliament building. He carried out more than 1,000 share deals, involving more than 50 million shares. Environment ministry officials cautioned him against receiving streams of stockbrokers at his office.

Mr Inamura prepared himself for yesterday's well sign-posted events by resigning from the Liberal Democratic Party on Wednesday, though he is not expected to give up his seat in the lower house.

Before formally pressing charges yesterday, public prosecutors would have convinced themselves that Mr Inamura had used his profits for himself, buying fancy apartments, more shares or letting them earn interest at the bank. Had the money been used for Mr Inamura's political expenses, he may well have escaped the authorities.

Japanese politicians raise huge amounts of cash to court constituents with presents for their weddings and gifts at new year. Money raised for such political activities in Japan may be controversial, but is free of tax. The many MPs and cabinet ministers entangled in the Recruit scandal managed to avoid prosecution because they seemed to have used the windfall profits they gained from buying cut-price Recruit shares for political purposes.

One who did not, Takao Fujinami, once Mr Nakasone's chief cabinet secretary, allegedly used his gains to buy property. Mr Fujinami is awaiting trial for his links to Recruit.

Mr Nakasone himself was close to Mr Kotani, who is proving something of an embarrassment to his former friends and associates. One of Mr Nakasone's aides is reported to have made 120 million yen from trading in the shares of a company which Mr Kotani took over.

Black Christmas taps ritual roots

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

Scarcely have Jews in America finished celebrating Hanukkah, and Christians celebrating their Christmas, when millions of African blacks begin what they call "Kwanzaa". Kwanzaa cards sit side by side with new year's missives in stationery shops; radio hosts discuss the seven key principles of Kwanzaa; and churches and museums are hosting Kwanzaa events.

Sometimes known as the "Black Christmas", the festival is in fact a secular celebration of "African-American" heritage dreamed up by a black power figure in 1966. For a week between Boxing day and new year, black American families gather nightly to replay elements from ancient African harvest rites. "Kwanzaa" is an abbreviation of the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits".

"It's not really African, it's African-American," said George Calderaro of the Studio Museum in New York's Harlem, which had to turn more than 100 people away from its Kwanzaa celebration this year. "It's not observed in

Africa. It's a uniquely African-American phenomenon." The festival was the brainchild of Maulana Karenga, a civil rights leader who now teaches at California university.

For seven nights, families gather to light a red, black or green candle, the colours of black nationalism, in a seven-pronged candle-holder similar to a Jewish menorah, and sip from a "unity cup" called a *kikombe*.

Each night celebrants discuss one of seven principles, the *Nguzo Saba*, laid down by Mr Karenga after extensive research into African customs. The principles are *umfaja* (unity), *kuhichagulia* (self-determination), *ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *ujamaa* (co-operative economics), *nia* (purpose), *kawumba* (creativity) and *imani* (faith).

Black nationalists contend that Kwanzaa eschews the cult of personality characteristic of Christmas. The festival could, however, fall victim to its own success, and become just another commercial celebration of shopping.

Dickensian dark, page 10



Taking hold: a Hong Kong fireman grabbing Cheung Ah Chi, aged 19, and dragging her away from the parapet of a 15-storey building as she prepared to jump to her death. Police said that the girl wanted to commit suicide after an argument with her boyfriend



Rangoon sacks dissident MPs

From REUTERS IN BANGKOK

BURMA'S military government has sacked eight members of parliament who fled to the border to set up a provisional government. Burmese state radio said. The eight were Sein Win, prime minister of the rival government declared at an insurgent base last week, and the members of his cabinet.

They won their seats in elections last May which gave the opposition a huge victory over the military-backed party. The ruling Rangoon junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, has since prevented the opposition from assuming power, and the parliament has not convened.

The judicial court has ruled that there is substantial evidence to deduce that the persons... have formed a parallel government and have made contacts and are co-operating with insurgent organisations which are engaged in armed struggle against the state, the broadcast, monitored here, reported. "Their status as elected People's Assembly representatives has therefore been annulled."

Sein Win, chairman of the Party for National Democracy, announced the formation of the so-called National Government of the Union of Burma at a guerrilla base at Manerplaw on the border with Thailand on December 18. It links the politicians with 21 dissident and ethnic groups.

Manila wins right to 'illegal' Marcos wealth

From A CORRESPONDENT IN GENEVA

THE Swiss supreme court yesterday dismissed five years of appeals from the family of the former president of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, and ruled that \$270 million (£142 million) held in Swiss banks should be returned to the Philippines.

But the transfer is conditional on a Philippines court bringing the late president's

widow, Imelda Marcos, and other members of the family to trial on fraud charges, the court ruled.

Guy Fontanet, the lawyer representing the Philippines government here, said he thought this was "possible but difficult". He said: "More than 1,200 people were killed in the last attempt at a coup d'état against President Aquino, after the court decision. It is not clear whether

she is prepared to risk more bloodshed, or whether any of the Marcos family could be brought back for trial."

Mrs Marcos and her children have sought asylum in Hawaii. Manila brought action in Swiss courts for the return of the money, but a series of appeals in lower courts delayed the proceedings and sent the case to the supreme court.

"The Marcos family have never made the slightest gesture towards a compromise in this matter," Mr Fontanet said. "In fact, they have done everything to delay things. They can do so no longer."

He said the money held in Swiss accounts had been "illegally acquired" and, for example, \$70 million held in an account in Fribourg "was siphoned off by Marcos from reparations paid by the Japanese government to the people

of the Philippines" after the second world war.

The court ruling turns over to the Aquino government all bank documents seized when Marcos was toppled. The money will follow as soon as a trial of the family has been held in the Philippines. Bankers said this was the first time the Swiss government had agreed to a country's request to return money from personal numbered accounts.

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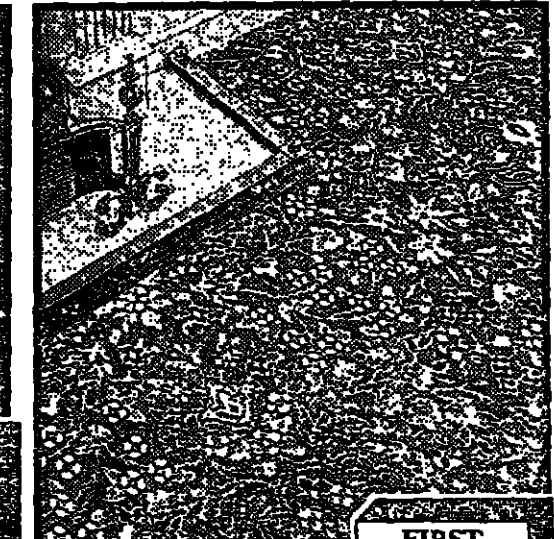
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Stalemate
diplomacy
reading

Europe and America from

Stalemate in Gulf diplomacy despite 'readiness' to talk

From JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

THE American chargé d'affaires, Joe Wilson, said yesterday that he and the Iraqis had not spoken to one another for several days regarding dates for a meeting, although President Saddam Hussein said yesterday he was ready for "serious and constructive dialogue" with the United States, "based on mutual respect".

Mr Wilson vehemently denied one news report that he had been holding talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, and other foreign ministry officials. "It is a very sensitive time," Mr Wilson said, "but there have been no contacts recently."

He insisted that he had "not given up on the diplomatic process" but Western officials say they still see no sign of an imminent meaningful dialogue between Baghdad and Washington.

With only 18 days to go before the UN deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, America and Iraq have both expressed readiness separately to hold a direct dialogue. But neither appeared able to find agreement on either the timing for an exchange of visits by their foreign ministers, or on the agenda.

Meanwhile, President Saddam, after talks yesterday with his top foreign envoys

called home for consultations, said that dialogue with Washington was possible, but only if it included talks on the Palestinian question - a linkage Washington has firmly rejected.

"Iraq is ready for serious and constructive dialogue," the Iraqi leader said, "but rejects American arrogance, vanity and imposition of will. Iraq's linkage of the region's issues, with priority given to the Palestinian question and rights of the Palestinian people, is a correct, patriotic and humanitarian policy."

Yesterday the tone of Iraqi officials and in the state-run media, while still vehemently anti-Western, lacked the usual sabre-rattling and "come and get us" rhetoric which had dominated news items in recent days.

Some observers said that, sharp words notwithstanding, the renewed emphasis by Baghdad on starting dialogue was a positive sign, which may be followed by an overtone which some diplomats have hinted could happen around the first day of the new year. Top EC embassy officials were said to be holding their weekly meeting at the Italian embassy to explore new avenues of diplomacy, but sources could not even agree on whether the meeting was being held at all. Following the arrival in

Baghdad of a senior Soviet government official, a Soviet embassy spokesman said most of the 2,300 Soviet civilians working in Iraq would be allowed to leave for home within a week. The spokesman said talks with the Iraqis were "going smoothly".

"We expect all but a few hundred of our citizens to leave Iraq by chartered aircraft no later than January 3."

The deputy chairman of the Soviet council of ministers, Igor Belousov, arrived yesterday with the Soviet deputy oil and gas minister, as well as the head of the Soviet foreign ministry's Middle East section. The official Iraqi News Agency said that Mr Belousov "lauded Iraq's initiative to allow Soviet experts to stay or leave as they wished".

The two sides had been at stalemate for several weeks over the issue of penalties to be paid to Iraq for broken Soviet contracts by workers in the oil and power industries. Neither Soviet nor Iraqi officials would say how they had resolved their differences.



Taking stock: Trooper Shawn Fowler, from Preston, Lancashire, of the 4th Armoured Division, eating a sandwich after driving his newly arrived Challenger tank from its transporter in Saudi Arabia yesterday

Public posturing masks continued search for peace

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ON CHRISTMAS day, President Saddam Hussein sent Joe Wilson, the US chargé d'affaires in Baghdad, a cake shaped like a yule log and a floral arrangement of purple and lavender zinnias. Mr Wilson sent Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Christian foreign minister, a bottle of Californian wine. The exchanges were small, but telling.

With Christmas over, the sobering reality is that just 18 days remain for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or precipitate a bloody Middle East conflict. US officials say they see not the slightest sign of President Saddam backing down, while President Bush is said to have "crossed the Rubicon" and reconciled himself to war. But to suggest that it is now all over, bar the shooting, is wrong. Behind the belligerent public postures of both sides, the search continues for a way to avert bloodshed, and over the next two weeks there may be some surprising developments.

For reasons the White House would not divulge, Mr Bush broke his Camp David holiday for a brief trip back to Washington. That included a

meeting with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet ambassador, while a senior official said in an interview that the US was considering a couple of unspecified moves to strengthen the message to Iraq that it was deadly serious about going to war.

To date, President Saddam has proved remarkably shrewd in knowing just how far he can push the Americans, and the US official said it was entirely possible that the Iraqi leader may make some move between now and January 15 to forestall a US attack.

US strategy is based on the belief that the Iraqi leader is still not convinced that a divided America would go to war over Kuwait.

The quickest way to dispel that misconception would be to seek congressional approval for military action. It would be a high-risk move, given that many Democrats want sanctions to be given more time, but it is one Mr Bush is considering and he may gamble that Congress would not dare undercut the nation's stand, and that of the United Nations, so late in the day

Rock show ban angers French

From A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

A TELEVISION documentary broadcast yesterday described as "very bitter" the mood of French frontline troops in the Gulf after Saudi authorities banned at the last minute two Christmas concerts by one of France's veteran rock stars.

A crew from the Antenne-2 channel accompanied the 48-year-old singer, Eddy Mitchell, on his abortive desert tour. Their report, shown at peak time last night, showed the deep disappointment of foreign legionnaires at the most forward French positions at Miramar, 50 miles from the Iraqi border, after the first performance was cancelled.



Chevènement: promise of a special Gulf medal under Saudi official pressure on Saturday.

A second concert was called off on Sunday half an hour before it was due to start, when 1,500 French soldiers had already assembled in front of a stage in the desert.

The French defence minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, cancelled a meeting with his Saudi opposite number, Prince Sultan Ben Abdel Aziz, on Sunday to protest at the "very regrettable incident". M Chevènement said

during a Christmas visit to the French contingent of 6,500 men in Saudi Arabia: "I do not think that Eddy Mitchell is a subversive singer."

"The songs of Eddy Mitchell were not threatening Islamic values any more than they threaten Christian values in France."

The affair has stirred grumbling in the French press. The left-wing newspaper *Libération* asked why Bob Hope had been allowed to entertain American troops in Saudi Arabia. "Is Bob Hope less subversive than Eddy Mitchell or has Washington been more convincing than Paris?" *Le Figaro* said: "The discontent is general among the servicemen who do not understand the reason for this contretemps with the Saudis."

One French officer was quoted as saying: "We are perhaps going into the firing line for them and they deprive us of a concert."

Colonel Mercier, the second-in-command of the 1st Regiment of Spahis, an armoured cavalry unit, said the cancellation "is going to deal a blow to morale. One never ought to have promised something that could not be kept."

The French defence minister sought to boost morale during his Christmas visit by announcing that all French troops will be awarded a special "overseas medal" for Gulf service as well as a pay bonus for hazardous duty.

After the two concerts were cancelled, Mitchell, who first made a name for himself in the late 1950s and was known for his opposition to the Algerian war in the 1960s, borrowed a guitar from a Foreign Legion NCO and made an unauthorised visit to some of the troops, serenading them briefly.

Build-up in Jordan

Amman - Jordan is beefing up troops along its frontier with Israel amid fears that the Jewish state might become involved in a Gulf war, official sources said yesterday. They said troops and tanks were being moved into place in case Israel attacked Iraq through Jordan.

The sources said Mudar Badran, the prime minister of Jordan, during a visit to Syria over a week ago, discussed co-ordinating their defences in the event of an Israeli attack. Jordan fought Israel in 1948 and 1967, and in the latter war a ceasefire line was declared along the Jordan valley. (Reuters)

Kuwait warning on peace efforts

Peking - The Kuwaiti foreign minister, Sabah al-Sabah, said it was too late for Gulf peace initiatives from China or any other country (Catherine Sampson writes).

He was speaking in Peking, where the Emir of Kuwait, Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, is holding talks with President Yang Shangkun of China. Peking repeated its call for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

Flights full

Manama - All flights to Europe and America from Bahrain are full from January 2 to January 15, the UN deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, British Airways and Gulf Air said here. (AFP)

US task force

Manila - A 13-ship US Navy amphibious task force arrived at Subic Bay, the US naval base in the Philippines, en route to join forces in the Gulf area against Iraq, a navy spokesman for the US 7th Fleet said. The task force, which left San Diego two weeks ago, is the biggest to leave America's west coast since the Vietnam war. (AP)

War opposed

Toronto - Most Canadians are against their country's involvement in a possible Gulf war against Iraq, according to a Gallup poll. It said that 55 per cent of Canadians oppose going to war, with 36 per cent in favour and eight per cent with no opinion. (Reuters)

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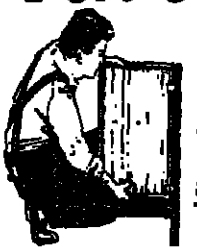
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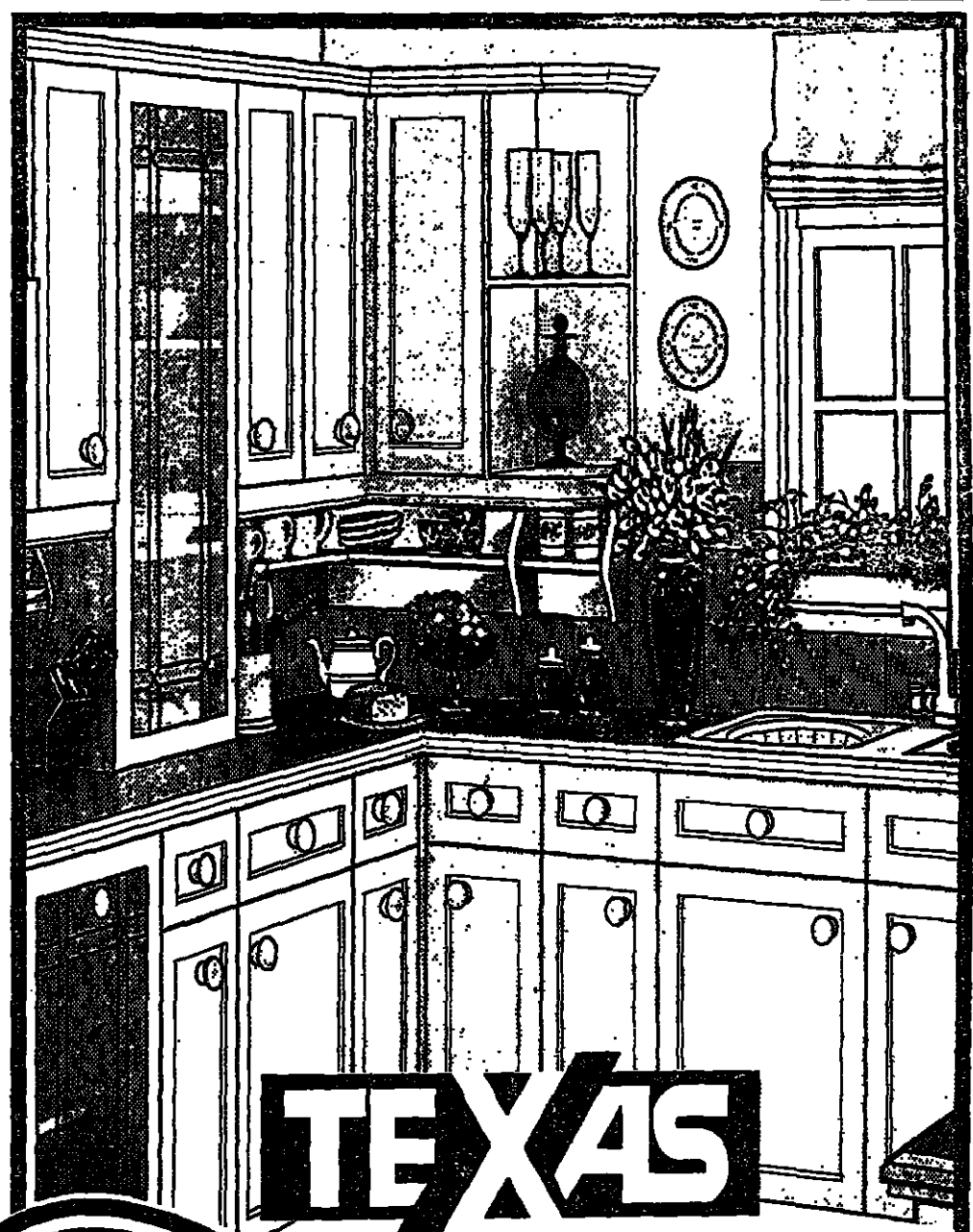
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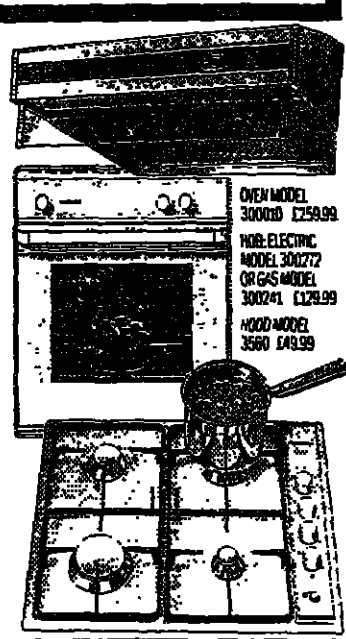
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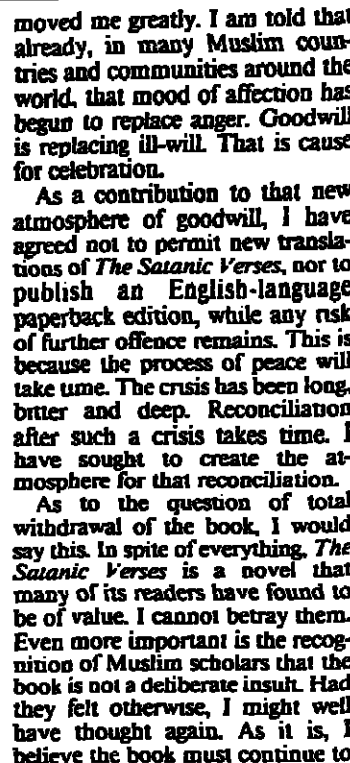
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All doublets and pose

ALAN COREN

Sing *I'm Dreaming of a Wet Christmas*, Cliff, and let's be done with it.

Salman Rushdie explains his affirmation of the Muslim faith and his decision to restrict publication of *The Satanic Verses*



I know that most Muslims will be content with what has been achieved, and will now wish this matter to be laid to rest. I appeal to all Muslims, and to Muslim organisations and governments everywhere, to join in the process of healing that we have begun. What I know of Islam is that tolerance, compassion and love are at its very heart. I believe that in the weeks and months to come the language of enmity will be replaced by the language of love.

Charles Bremner on a city where freewheeling attitudes to social disaster are beginning to wear a little thin



The entrepreneurial Christmas


with begging cups in hand, often troubling the conveyances of the wealthy as they crawl through the traffic jams. The more entrepreneurial beggars use sales tools such as cassette players that play "Joy to the World" and other conscience-tugging jingles.

In another throwback to harder times, a tuberculosis epidemic appeared this season among the well-to-do, after apparently breeding among the thousands of vagrants who sleep in door-ways, subway sta-

tions and in cardboard boxes. If you get to the office early enough you witness one of the city's more curious new rituals. Janitors at the sleekest skyscrapers start their day rousing the homeless from their boxes before hosing down the pavement. This season, some have been handing out doughnuts and coffee on their rounds.

Further out, charity workers have been trying to bring festive cheer to the so-called "mole-

A woman without honour



DIARY

mand. At the same time, Alan Dobie, veteran of 120 television dramas, agreed to take the part of Dowding, last portrayed by Olivier in the film *Battle of Britain*.

The broadcast will be Cushing's first role for some years, although it seems he took little persuading. I looked forward to taking part in such a moving tribute to a much maligned man to whom so much is owed," he says.

Michael Bath, the producer, says "Both are working for virtually nothing. They are doing it out of respect for Dowding. The play portrays him as one of the great men of the 20th century, the man who won the Battle of Britain."

Booth boom

While most High Street stores are pinning their

hopes on the January sales making up for the disastrous Christmas, at least one retail outlet in London seems to have broken its sales record. The souvenir kiosk at the House of

Sabbath slippage

There will be spluttering over ecclesiastical breakfast tables this morning with the arrival of the latest *Catholic Herald*, which contains a trenchant leader headlined: "The case for Sunday trading". Of John Major's suggestion last week that the law should be reviewed, Peter Stanford, the editor, writes: "The debate must not be allowed to centre on the view of the Sabbath held by a vociferous minority who would prefer to turn the clock back

Those who might be the target of the Herald's strictures responded yesterday more in sorrow than in anger. Ken Hargreaves, the Conservative MP and leading supporter of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said: "It is unkind to cause a rumpus. The vociferous minority" presumably includes the Catholic Church. I am astonished," Liberal Democrat member David Alton, another prominent Catholic, said. "If they're arguing there should be free-for-all I would strongly

But the *Herald* has one compelling argument up its sleeve, for it seems that the church itself is not averse to earning an honest penny on the Sabbath. "The gift shop in Westminster Cathedral is open for business on Sundays," points out the *Herald*. "Can it be said that a shop inside a church is permissible, when to buy dried flowers in the street, outside, is not?"

[illegible]



HALF WAY TO WAR

The seven-week "pause of good will" granted to Iraq by the United Nations Security Council on November 30 is more than half spent. But there is as yet no sign of any decision by Saddam Hussein to pull out of Kuwait. The UN's goodwill gesture has been accompanied by President Bush's proposal of direct talks to convince Saddam of the certainty of war unless he withdraws unconditionally by January 15. So far, Saddam has treated both the pause and the offer contemptuously.

The release of foreign hostages, however easing to their families' hearts, was politically significant only in the context of his game plan, which is to weaken public resolve in the West. He seems to expect that those who, in Mr Bush's words, are ready to "go the extra mile" for peace will go all the way to appeasement. He still insists that Kuwait is an integral part of Iraq. To show the Arab world that he can dictate to a superpower, he has rejected 15 proposed dates for the arrival of the American secretary of state, James Baker, in Baghdad.

But for all his prevarication Saddam above all needs to keep his military machine intact. The conclusion must be that he still hopes to break the international alliance and hang on to Kuwait without war. He is unlikely to be gambling on winning a war. His recent conference of ambassadors should have reinforced the voices from within his own ranks who warn that such a war would probably be lost, and with it Saddam's own position.

The West would be foolish to assume that its enemy is wholly stupid, or wholly lacking in opportunism. To be sure, Saddam must be made to understand three things: that he went a step far too far in invading Kuwait and must withdraw; that he has an American president who simply cannot march his troops back down this particular hill, having so laboriously marched them to its top; and that he cannot strut the Middle East stage having "tabled" the Palestine issue on the strength of his Kuwaiti invasion.

He must, in other words, be denied anything which gives him immediate profit from his adventure. But the basis on which he is induced to retreat can still be a matter for sensible debate. Hence the subterranean talks taking place among American, Arab

and Russian intermediaries. Hence the importance of distinguishing a negotiated retreat, which does not surrender the essence of the conflict, from a retreat made only after the spilling of much blood.

A future for the Palestinians, however desirable in itself, cannot be negotiable within the context of the Kuwaiti invasion. Saddam has no seat at that table. The world was not waiting to be persuaded by him that the Palestinian Israeli confrontation must be settled and he has nothing to add to the prospects for an agreed peace there. In the Gulf itself, however, he can be told what the result would be if he did withdraw completely from Kuwait: for instance that his old dispute with Kuwait concerning oil wells, islands and borders was still for negotiation between himself, a restored Kuwaiti government and perhaps other Arab neighbours.

The UN and with it the structure of international law exists not to leave threats to peace unresolved and festering, but to find solutions by peaceful means. A restored Kuwaiti government would have to accept whatever solutions might be reached by these international dispute procedures. These might include long-term leases for Gulf islands and arbitration by the International Court on wells and borders, a notoriously complex issue in the Middle East where oilfields often cross borders. The solutions might also include arbitration on security and arms deployment, by the West, the Arab allies and Iraq itself. Iraq has proved itself a threat to peace in the entire region; the threat will not be removed until Saddam's ambitions have been tamed.

There is plenty here into which diplomacy can sink its teeth if, as is likely, Saddam becomes more aware of the military risks in the new year. None of this represents any weakening on the fundamental point of principle. The message Saddam has to hear is that there is an alternative to war — an alternative constructive both for Iraq and for the region. But this requires him to accept the immediate restoration of Kuwait as an independent state. Only the certainty of war if he refuses can bring home to him the need for peaceful alternatives.

SHOPKEEPERS' RECESSION

As Boxing Day follows Christmas, so the January sales follow Boxing Day. A sure sign of the state of the economy is the distance that these sales intrude upon December. A round-up of 80 major stores and chains shows that nearly two-thirds began their so-called new year sales well before the end of December. The Chancellor need look no further for his recession.

Equally strange is the spectacle of customers buying goods before Christmas which are then slashed in price only two days after full-price presents have been exchanged. Clearly, the economic principles of the free market clash with the unbreakable custom of giving in the appropriate season, regardless of cost.

This year's winter sales also see the disappearance of another piece of tradition. From Monday, the old 5p coin ceases to be legal tender, replaced by the smaller new 5p piece. With the passing of the original coin goes the last vestiges of the old shilling.

Some traditions die harder. Harrods commendably refuses to start its sale, the Ascot of January bargain-hunters, until a week today. But not many stores in our high streets can rely on being kept warm by the disposable income from the well-heeled customers and tourists who are still attracted to Britain's flagship retailer. For most, Christmas has been a hard, dry season in

which the cold wind of recession has sometimes been the only thing stirring. Hard-pressed shopkeepers have found the recession is biting, and biting deep.

Many retailers are still reeling from the impact of the commercial poll tax, the uniform business rate. Since a high proportion of annual retail sales are in the period immediately before Christmas, a poor season now will contribute to what is likely to be a considerable crop of retail failures in the new year.

The government believes that these difficulties are the medicine, albeit bitter, that Britain needs to swallow if inflation is to be reduced. John Major earlier this year summed up the government's counter-inflationary policy by insisting that if "it wasn't hurting, it wasn't working."

Britain's high street shops are hurting now, and the rash of early sales an entirely understandable attempt on their part to alleviate the anguish. Their cries should not be left unheeded. The high interest rates which are hurting them are not the only policy option open to the government. Britain entered the exchange-rate mechanism at too high a level. The government should be taking action to put that mistake right, enabling it to begin to relax interest rates. That would help Britain's beleaguered high streets and help to restore the economy.

CHAMPIONING CHESS

When his fifth match against Anatoly Karpov ends next week, the world chess championship will belong to Gary Kasparov for another three years. Karpov was forced to concede a draw (the 16th) in the 22nd game, so permitting his opponent to retain his title with two games to spare. Though Karpov had some bad luck, Kasparov was clearly the stronger player. But the time has now come for some movement in the rules by which these competitions are conducted.

Until a new challenger emerges in 1993 the champion, who will share a \$3 million purse with Karpov, has no obligations. He may devote himself to Soviet politics or to business. He may risk meeting younger rivals in tournaments. If he chooses he may, like Bobby Fischer, never play again.

Such freedom is a reminder of the days when the championship was the personal property of the champion, who defended it against opponents of his own choosing. Steinitz, who invented the title a century ago, owned it until Lasker defeated him. So did their successors down to Alekhine, after whose death in 1946 the title briefly lapsed.

Only then did Fide, the world chess federation, collectivise the title and devise its own rules. All the subsequent champions and challengers until 1972 were Soviet, and they dared not dispute the rules. Nor did commercial sponsors, since all championship matches were played in Moscow, where spectators and the media obeyed.

Bobby Fischer during his brief reign revived interest in chess in the West, improving prizes and conditions for his peers as he did so. In 1975 he forfeited the title to his Soviet challenger, Karpov, rather than defend it under Fide's rules. But the Kasparov era dawned in 1984-5. The new champion set about curbing Fide down to size by leading a breakaway group of top professionals, the grandmasters' association.

So dependent is Fide on these two dominant masters that the two can, in effect, veto changes in the rules for title matches.

Yet chess at the highest level must be made more interesting for spectators and rewarding for sponsors. The New York series failed to attract the big American television networks. The system of time-outs, whereby each player can postpone up to three games for a few days at short notice, plays havoc with broadcasting schedules and is frustrating for spectators. Intended to allow for sickness, time-outs are routinely taken to recover from a severe defeat. If the length of a 24-game match demands such rests, they should be scheduled ones.

The most serious defect of the present rules, however, is the 40-move session. Many games in this match did not diverge from their established "book" openings until somewhere between the 15th and the 20th moves. Often the game is adjourned after 40 moves, after which the continuation is analysed exhaustively with the help of the players' "seconds", who are chess masters themselves, and even computers. When the game is resumed a day later, its result is often a foregone conclusion. Yet the great majority of games could be finished in the 60-move sessions which are now customary in tournament chess and in qualifying matches for the championship. Fewer adjournments should mean more creative chess and more decisive games.

As his games in New York and especially in Lyons have proved, Kasparov is a true master of the game. But his reassertion of the champion's prerogative ought not to detract from the quality of matches for the world title. No other game allows its champion such infrequent defences of his title. The public is entitled to expect world championship matches to be more entertaining.

Getting rid of Saddam the priority

From General Sir John Hackett
Sir, Public debate on the crisis in the Middle East, unhappily disguised by not a little scatterbrained ranting, has never taken enough account of the central problem, which is the position, power and purpose of Saddam Hussein himself.

His clear aim is overthrow of the Arab world, based on the obliteration of Israel, strengthened by a stranglehold on 40 per cent of the industrial world's oil resources. Israel has long had nuclear weapons and will not hesitate to use them if driven to it. Saddam Hussein has for some time had nuclear weapons in preparation, and those of us who have given warning of this danger have been dismayed to learn how close it is.

The outbreak of nuclear warfare in the Middle East could only cause untold and widely-spread calamity. It can hardly fail to happen if Saddam Hussein is left in power. He must therefore, in the interests of world peace, and even perhaps of human survival, be got rid of, but how?

Only his own people can pull him down. To suppose that sanctions can destroy him, or even thwart his purpose, is infantile. Iraq, at present enjoying the fruits of an unusually good harvest, can feed itself indefinitely and the shortages imposed by

embargo would never be critical within the predictable lifetime of the coalition.

What then can bring him down? Only his army. He has purged it ruthlessly at all levels and removed, and even executed, officers in great numbers. For the present he can rely upon it. Would he still be able to after a major military setback?

The Iraqi army could easily turn on Saddam Hussein if made to see the abyss into which he would be leading them in full-scale warfare against the West. The longer this is delayed the better President Saddam's hope of showing greater endurance than that of the coalition now arrayed against him. If his army turns against him and destroys him the probability of a successor with sufficient hardihood to try again along the same lines will be remote.

Only when he is gone, which must be soon, will present talk of political solutions, conferences, diplomacy, compromise, negotiations — all idle and even dangerous chatter today — have any real meaning. We may then, in a more stable world, even get round to having another look at UN Resolution 242 on the occupation of Arab territory by Israel.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. HACKETT,
Cobley Mill,
Nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Time running out to rescue Kuwait

From Commander C. F. B. Hamilton, RN

Sir, As a Christian society we must all dread the use of force to dislodge Saddam Hussein and to negate his ability to threaten his neighbours. Arab or Jew, with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The recent call by our two archbishops is both admirable and timely. Clearly all attempts to solve this crisis must be and are being exhausted.

Nevertheless, in extremis the Christian ethic must condone and support the use of force in pursuit of moral right, as it did in two world wars. What we must all appreciate fully is that the time for these attempts is running out.

Having suffered the awfulness of August and September in the Middle East our servicemen and their allies are presently enjoying beautiful weather, but in three months will again start to suffer severe hardships.

In the climate of April and beyond military life becomes tedious. Engines overheat, radios and computer-driven equipments fail, air-

craft and ships suffer increasing failure rates and humans cannot compete with the climate for more than a few hours at a time. In particular, the ever-present requirement to wear chemical and biological protection will very severely exacerbate the problems of desert warfare.

Not all our servicemen and women live in the luxury of five-star accommodation in Riyadh, Bahrain and Muscat. The vast majority live in or near their vehicles, tanks, aircraft or ships.

If the Allied effort to counter this menace is forced into military action by Saddam Hussein's intransigence, it must complete its task before the summer and it must have the support of all our parties, our people and the churches. Is there any difference between a dictator invading British lands and those of the Kuwaitis?

Yours truly,
C. F. B. HAMILTON,
BFPO 647,
December 22.

Businesslike speech

From Mr Robin Kempster

Sir, There seems to be an urgent need for someone to compile a new dictionary of "business speak".

If I "diarise" my appointments properly I can go to meetings where my views no longer influence decisions. They "inform" them or "impact" upon them. If I want to raise an issue for a future meeting, I have to "flag it up". I cannot go back to an earlier agenda item; I must "re-visit" it.

Loss-making components of a business have become "negative contributions" to the balance sheet, and over-spends on budget form "unfavourable variances" in the monthly accounts. Businesses cannot be allowed to expand — one has to "grow the organisation". I can no longer discuss such matters with my personnel officer because he may be away somewhere doing "human resources management".

What about a plastic cup of British Rail tea for the homeward journey? The buffet-car steward has now turned into my "on-board purser".

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN KEMPSTER,
1 Vine Court, Clifton,
Bridgwater, West Yorkshire.
December 24.

TV translations

From Mr Brian P. Swift

Sir, Television news and current affairs programmes include, increasingly so, interviews with foreign politicians and others where the interviewee speaks in his own language, only to be faded out after a few words with a voice-over translation in English.

I find this annoying. Why cannot the media leave the original and subtitle a translation? My schoolboy French and German are yearning for opportunities to be of use and, as we all know, it is not necessarily what you say, but the way that you say it.

Yours truly,
B. P. SWIFT,
Oak Meadows, St Leonard's Hill,
Windsor, Berkshire.

British shipping

From Mr John Newman

Sir, David Lipsey's attempt ("Save our ships — a price", December 19) to portray British shipping as a sunset industry, unworthy of the financial support he predicts in Norman Lamont's first Budget, is both unfair and untrue.

Why should it matter, he asks, whether the 95 per cent (by quantity) of British trade carried by ships goes on foreign or British vessels? One very good reason, at a time when the British balance of payments figures face increasing pressure, is the fact that British shipping is the third largest earner of "invisibles", with a contribution last year of more than £4 billion — out-ranked by only insurance and tourism.

It also matters because our fleet, according to international marine

insurance records, remains one of the safest in the world. Placing increasing amounts of potentially devastating cargoes like oil and chemicals in frequently sub-standard foreign competition is a form of environmental Russian roulette.

If we allow our national fleet to disappear, we also risk losing the related marine service industries such as shipbroking, insurance and classification which, thanks to London's present leading role in such fields, contribute a further £1 billion to the balance of payments.

The fact that two-thirds of world shipping receives substantial state support suggests that other nations know the long-term value of short-

term aid. Neither the British ship-owners nor the seafaring unions are asking for subsidy. We simply believe there is a solid case for a flexible fiscal regime to give our fleet some sort of chance to compete in the world.

Nothing has changed to diminish the sea's present or future influence upon our nation's prosperity and well-being and our shipping industry remains, in the words of a recent government report, "a vital national asset".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NEWMAN
(General Secretary),
The National Union of Marine
Aviation and Shipping
Transport Officers,
Oceanair House,
750-760 High Road,
Leytonstone, E11.
December 20.

In search of cure for homelessness

From Mr C. John Naylor

Sir, As your editorial (December 19) rightly points out, "homelessness has many social, economic and even psychological causes".

This is why, welcome as the newly-announced government initiative on homelessness must be (report, December 19), it is essential that some of the underlying causes are also tackled. Certainly, as you stated, not all the causes can be laid at the government's door, but one certainly can.

Homelessness and unemployment are almost invariably intertwined and the recent reduction in expenditure on training has, without question, contributed to this situation.

The government is clearly right to seek value for money and to give priority to employer-based schemes. But young people with special needs — including those who have been in trouble with the law, have little education or who are disabled — cost more to train and will seldom be taken on by private-sector companies on government-funded schemes. It is these young people who, without training and support, are most at risk of becoming homeless.

This is why the voluntary sector has concentrated on providing training for these young people — those who no one else will help.

Few can disagree with the need, yet government policy is forcing the voluntary sector to cut back or stop its work in this area. The YMCA, for example, which has helped train more than 20,000 disadvantaged young people, has been forced to close three centres with the loss of 60 skilled staff and a direct cost to the charity of £200,000.

Let us also acknowledge that reductions in training budgets must be restored if one of the main causes of the tragedy of homelessness is to be addressed.

Yours sincerely,
C. JOHN NAYLOR
(National Secretary),
National Council of YMCAs,
640 Forest Road, E17,
December 20.

From Mr Robin Jenks

Sir, The bishops are right (report, December 12) to urge the government to do something about homelessness. But they are mistaken if they think that cheap rented accommodation can be made available quickly. A combination of mortgage interest relief, the green

belt and high interest rates has made this impractical.

Yet the government could do something at once to house the homeless. Various of its agencies own a huge number of well maintained but empty buildings where the people with nowhere to live could be housed. The Ministry of Defence and the health authorities are two that immediately spring to mind. The South London Hospital, empty for six years, could accommodate most of London's homeless.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN JENKS,
26 Alderbrook Road, SW12.

From Mr Gordon M. L. Smith

Sir, I must protest at the unfairness of the Catholic bishops' attack on the government over the homeless in London. More than 100,000 young people nationally are accommodated free with bed and breakfast every night, but there will always be some in cardboard boxes for the TV cameras at Waterloo.

The main cause is the great increase in divorce, and the break-up of families, where two or more homes are needed instead of one. Political propaganda has misled thousands of young people to leave their homes in the north and pour into London, hoping for immediate highly paid jobs. The problem cannot be solved simply by legislation.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON M. L. SMITH,
9 Greenfield Way,
Storrington,
West Sussex.
December 14.

From Mrs Mariota Fuller

Sir, A large percentage of the homeless would not have become homeless in a previous generation. By and large, children stayed in the parental home until such time as they were employed and accommodated elsewhere, or got married. Teenagers did not expect independent shelter as of right, despite the fact that housing was generally of a far lower standard and conditions in large families cramped to a degree.

I wish the church would address itself to some of the moral issues involved and be less political in its thinking. That can safely be left to the politicians.

Yours faithfully,
MARIOTA FULLER,
Becky's Orchard, Hyde,
Nr Fordingbridge,
Hampshire.

Conservative gurus

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, It is hard to see how Michael Oakeshott might merit your leader-writer's description (December 21) as a "pragmatic Thatcherite". If "Thatcherism" needs a reputable intellectual guru, it has one in Hayek (who wrote to you, however, to repudiate the allegation).

Mrs Thatcher only too clearly — indeed explicitly — rejected Oakeshott's view of society as a "civil association held together by the rule of law and by the habits, traditions and loyalties inherited from the nation's past" (to use your obituarist's neat, and accurate, summary).

Yours etc.,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2,
December 23.

Food for thought

From Mrs Diana May

Sir, A name for informal luncheon (Mr de Witton, December 21)? "Branch 7 O'clock and nibbles"? "Yesterday I responded to an invitation to a 'light lunch' in a private house to find the excellent food — we grazed on the hoof as we talked — was served by a butler and three uniformed maids."

Yours,
DIANA MAY,
265 Swalekley Road,
Ickenham, Middlesex.
December 21.

From Mrs S. M. Porter

Sir, I have found an American phrase, "heavy hors d'oeuvres", covers the occasion.

Yours faithfully,
SANDRA M. PORTER,
65 Anacostia Green,
Hendon, Wiltshire,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr John Macdonnell

Sir, In the old days Mr de Witton could have invited his friends to "tiffin", a word well known to old India hands and defined in the Shorter OED as "a light midday meal".

Yours etc.,
JOHN MACDONNELL,
10 North Road,
Hythe, Kent.

From Mr Kenneth Bird

Sir, I recently gave a Sunday lunch-time party. My guests were invited to "drinks and mega small chow" and none was disappointed.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BIRD,
4 Cowdrey Road,
Wimbledon, SW19.

From Mrs Sandra Lewin

Sir, If Mr de Witton would allow me the opportunity to sample one of his occasional Sunday delights, I am sure I would be able to find the best way to word his invitations.

Yours faithfully,
SANDRA LEWIN,
Blue Cedars,
Bourne End Road,
Northwood, Middlesex.

Winners, losers and unfinished contests

A turbulent 1990 is reviewed by George Hill
with (below) Sara Driver's diary of the year

A funny old world it is. Do you remember how, a year ago, the clenched floss of a political ice-age were breaking up on all sides? It was the most exhilarating moment to be alive, politically, since 1945 at least. Reform seemed to be spreading like a pandemic - communicating itself irresistibly from hemisphere to hemisphere. Steady nerve had faced out the threat of tyranny, and those whose nerves had been strong stood vindicated. There was even chatter about the end of history.

Reports of its death were exaggerated. It has run on as if it had a will of its own, baffling even those who could have supposed themselves most in command of events. The world's leaders a year ago never anticipated how suddenly the two Germanies would spring together, nor how far the Soviet Union would go towards flying apart. A year ago, the White House had practically learnt to live with the Sandinistas. The trading nations had practically learnt that tariff wars hurt everybody.

Nelson Mandela was a prisoner on the point of release, the saviour who would prevent his country from falling into a three-sided civil war. Mrs Thatcher was unassailable, and Sir Geoffrey Howe had been kicked upstairs. A year ago, Kuwait was a little dry Switzerland. Change is instability. Hopeful change makes space that horrors may rush into. While Brezhnev snored in the Kremlin, the old machine creaked on. Once people dared to think, old hatreds and new greed, as well as ideals, were at hand for them to think about.

Yet in the year's many elections in the east, millions with no experience of voting power felt their way towards firm ground, perhaps with a surer instinct than any politician could have imposed. But Yugoslavia began to revert to Balkanism. Familiar faces reappeared in control in Romania, once last year's Christmas gunfire died down. The horror of what was found in its hospitals and orphanages almost outweighed joy at the fall of Ceausescu.

Wavering between the incompatible aims of restoring freedom and saving the union, Mr Gorbachev seemed to have lost the confidence even of his closest lieutenant, Eduard Shevardnadze. The possibilities of famine and mass flows of refugees from the east make western Europe's prosperity seem almost as fragile as it did under the shadow of the bomb.

The new age had a short honeymoon. In August, Saddam Hussein saw that the great powers were taking a holiday from geopolitics, and took advantage of their inattention. He may not have foreseen the unprecedented unanimity of the

world's response, but he may have been accurate in his contemptuous assumption that it was bluster, from which compromise could be wrung. Meanwhile, he ruthlessly broke the resistance of the Kuwaitis and used his hostages as pawns with cold resourcefulness, enticing a procession of hopeful peacemakers to shatter themselves in Baghdad.

In his opportunism, Saddam offered a glimpse of one possible pattern for the post cold war era - hard men snatching limited chances, with an alliance of soft superpowers content merely to contain them. Three times this century, the world has faced a problem of containment, and got it wrong twice. But was this another 1939, a 1945, or a 1914?

The western leader who most forcefully articulated the dangers of softness was Margaret Thatcher. George Bush does not have the timbre of voice to shake America easily out of the isolationism it always hankers for, especially since Vietnam.

Saddam's aggression and Mrs Thatcher's overthrow were alike in being virtually unforeseen until the moment they happened. Yet in hindsight, political life in Britain throughout 1990 appears shot through with premonitions of the doom of Thatcherism. A party which has made economic management its stock in trade inevitably finds recession hard to explain away. Each ministerial resignation weakened the impression of infallibility. But the trouble went deeper. The prime minister was at odds with the instincts of most of her MPs on two great issues: Europe and the poll tax. A host of small issues, including education vouchers, the football ID card scheme, AIDS compensation for haemophiliacs, and the war crimes bill, helped to create the impression of indomitable will-power flailing in a vacuum, increasingly out of touch with the mood of colleagues and voters, and with the art of the possible.

Labour forged ahead in the opinion polls. Numb resignation reigned among Tory MPs. Yet Mrs Thatcher's dominance was such that it was scarcely possible to imagine her no longer in charge. Probably only one man could have broken the spell. After the savaging from the dead sheep (more in sorrow than anger, and timed with precision), everything had changed.

The leadership election that followed was surely the most extraordinary instance of concerted political ingratiation, pragmatism and serendipity in Britain this century. Nobody could have planned or predicted the blind flow of instinct which led the party from Thatcher to Major, and to a healing of wounds which might have been crippling. In a redemptive



Over there for Queen and country: one of the first British soldiers in the Gulf, awaiting the uncertainties of the new year following Saddam's invasion of Kuwait

ritual reminiscent of the Golden Bough, the regime struck the fatal blow, and was himself struck down, so that the virgin knight might succeed.

Share prices rose at the news of her fall. The fickle public applauded (for the moment). On the day she accepted that she must step down, she gave a performance in the Commons that was an unsurpassable display of heart and resilience. Later, at the moment of her successor's triumph, she was present half-seen behind the upstairs curtains of Number 11, like an ancestral ghost leaning down from the heavens to give a silent blessing.

As power seeps from Whitehall to Brussels, it is hard to imagine that Westminster will ever see political theatre of quite the intensity we have witnessed since 1979. As for the virgin knight, or grey man: with one bound Jack was free, to smile at poor trade figures, discard policies without shame, and (most important) to retain policies while sounding completely different.

The year's other great piece of political theatre was the sight of Nelson Mandela walking down the road from prison, impressively upright, slim and self-

contained, and wearing an impressively well-cut suit. Over the months that followed, he had to call on all his fortitude not to be borne down by the exposure and the compromises of being the one man indispensable to resolving South Africa's grief.

Nicaragua and Ireland were two more countries where the ballot-box confounded the pundits. Nicaragua's voters dismissed the Sandinistas almost at the moment of their success, while Ireland's rejected the familiar riddled faces of Irish politics to choose someone fresh as president. But in India neither voters nor politicians seemed able to reverse a slide into corruption and sectarian violence.

This was the year of Gazza's tears. In the World Cup, England rose from a morass of bungling to a place among four semi-finalists of almost equal merit. Watching England's match against the radiant underdogs of Cameroon, half the nation would have been shaky qualifiers in Norman Tebbit's test of national allegiance. Underdogs in sport had a good year: Scotland at Murrayfield, England in the West Indies, and above all, Buster Douglas in Tokyo (he gained his knockout, took his champion's

purse, and hastened off to enjoy it). Nick Faldo was no underdog, clinching his second Open. But Navratilova was, taking a record ninth Wimbledon title, for time makes every champion an underdog in the end.

Underdogs rose and top dogs fell, in sport, politics, and especially in business. There never was such a bonfire of the vanities among boardroom potentates: Trump, Saunders, Halpern, Bond, Mirman were among those whose fortunes reached their Nadir. In Strangeways and other grim prisons, the underdogs took charge, and did their best to demolish them.

The IRA continued to blaze away, sometimes hitting the people they meant to (one of whom, sadly, was Ian Gow). Many Londoners experienced a breath of anarchy when, after the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot, gangs broke windows, overturned cars and had the time of their lives.

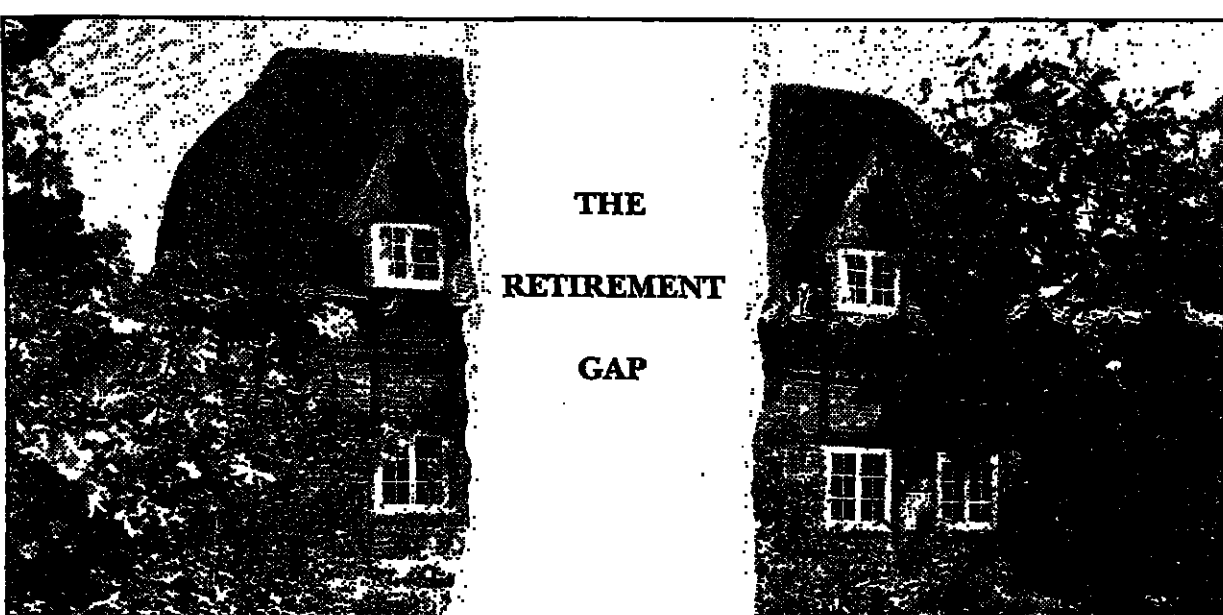
Brian Keenan was released from Beirut, and nobody who saw him will forget his infectious overflow of joy. But as the year ended, John McCarthy and

Terry Waite were still in captivity. So were the Birmingham Six.

As usual, it was the warmest year of the century, around the world and especially in Cheltenham, where the highest temperature ever recorded in Britain was reached, in the local Tory party headquarters after the naming of the new candidate. The greenhouse lobby were cock-a-hoop all summer: then came blizzards, and the ice-age faction counter-attacked.

A new terror was added to the sorrows of old age: that of being interviewed by the *Spectator*. And a new terror to childhood: that of being plied with beefburgers by the arch-carnivore John Gummer, to show his fearlessness in face of mad cow disease. The Queen Mother reached 90, the emperor of Japan communed with the earth goddess and the Scouts opened their ranks to girls.

Britain ceased to be an island, after 10,000 years in the role of precious stone set in a silver sea. The breakthrough in the Channel tunnel opens up for rail travellers the prospect of hurdling like the wind from every corner of Europe to stack up behind the 1932 stopping service from Ashford to Waterloo.



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Home, Jan 23: The Metropolitan Police became the first force to scrap height requirements. 28: The Independent on Sunday was launched.

Abroad, Jan 15: The Soviet government declared a state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Arts and Entertainment, Jan 24: Richard Holmes's *Coleridge: Early Visions* was the Whitbread Book of the Year.

Business and Finance, Jan 3: The FT-SE 100 share index rose to a record 2,463.7.

Crime, Jan 18: Terry Marsh, the former world lightweight boxing champion, was charged with the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager.

Politics, Jan 3: Norman Fowler, the employment secretary, resigned.

Sport, Jan 29: David Waddington, the home secretary, announced that the government would accept the recommendations in Lord Justice Taylor's report on Hillsborough and would shelve plans for compulsory ID cards for football supporters.

Weather, Jan 26: Winds of up to 110mph swept across Britain, killing 47 people.

Some Who Died, Armed Forces: Lieut-Gen Sir Roger Bower, Air Commodore Richard Kellett, Air Vice-Marshal George Lott, Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Villiers, Group Capt F.W. Winterbottom. Arts: Ian Charleston, Ava Gardner, Gordon Jackson, Semprini, Barbara Stanwyck, Terry-Thomas. Business and Industry: Lord McAlpine of Moffat, Sir Martin Wildkinson. Education: John Scupham, Professor John Blacking, Law: Lord Gardner.

Politics and Civil Service: Lord Paget of Northampton, Sir Antony Part, Religion: Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, Science and Medicine: Sir Reginald Raine, Sir Edward Pocock. Sport: Joseph Hardsell, Mark Sugden.

FEBRUARY

Home, Feb 23: Union and health service negotiators reached settlement about pay increases for ambulance crews. Merseyside ambulance men voted for an all-out strike.

Abroad, Feb 1: Federal troops and tanks were deployed in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo following deaths in clashes between ethnic Albanians and the

Serbian authorities. 2: President F.W. De Klerk announced the 30-year ban on South Africa's communist party, the ANC, the PAC and other anti-apartheid organisations would be lifted. 7: The Soviet Central Committee voted to end the communist party's monopoly of power. Feb 18: More than 7,000 Romanian miners were drafted into Bucharest to counter anti-government demonstrations. 25: Violeta Chamorro became president of Nicaragua.

Business and Finance, Feb 9: Sock Shop revealed a pre-tax loss of £3.97 million. Shares in the company were later suspended and administrators brought in.

People, Feb 11: Nelson Mandela was released after more than 27 years in jail.

Politics, Feb 11: James "Buster" Douglas knocked out Mike Tyson, the previously unbeaten world heavyweight champion, in Tokyo. 13: It was announced that the unofficial England cricket tour of South Africa, led by Mike Gatting, would end two weeks early.

Weather, Feb 26: Eighteen people died as gales swept across Britain.

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Home, Mar 9: The NUM executive agreed to an independent enquiry into allegations that Libya had given funds to the union during the 1984-85 strike and that Arthur Scargill had used some of these funds to pay off his mortgage. 28: Three people were charged after an attempt to smuggle trigger devices for nuclear bombs on to an Iraqi airliner at Heathrow. 31: Police arrested 341 during a mass rally against the poll tax at Trafalgar Square.

Abroad, Mar 11: Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence from the Soviet Union. 14: Mikhail Gorbachev was elected to the new executive post of president. 18: In East Germany's first free elections, the Alliance for Germany won with 48 per cent of the vote.

People, Mar 25: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, announced he would retire in January 1991.

Politics, Mar 4: Peter Walker, the Welsh secretary, announced he would resign in May. 22: In the Mid Staffordshire by-election, Sylvia Heal overturned a Conservative majority to take the seat for Labour.

Royalty, Mar 23: The Duchess of York gave birth to her second daughter, Eugenie.

Sport, Mar 17: Scotland beat England to win the Rugby Union Grand Slam.

Weather, Mar 18: Temperatures of 22C, the hottest in March since 1955.

Died, Lady Owen Carey, Giles Kershaw. Armed Forces: Air Chief Marshal Sir Alfred Earle, Major-General R.G. Ekin, Air-Vice Marshal J.R. Gordon-Finlayson, Major-General Sir Julian Gascogne, Air Marshal Sir Douglas "Zulu" Morris, Rear-Admiral Sir Matthew Rastbury, Commander Broadwell Turner, Air Commodore Harold White, Arts: Capucine, John Dexter, Fabia Drake, Halston, Gary Merrill, Philippe Soupault. Business and Industry: The Hon Anthony Geyzer, Lord Rothschild. Education: Dr Bruno Bettelheim, Ruth Glass. Law: William Howard, QC. Politics and Civil Service: Lord Stewart of Fulham, Religion: The Rev Alan Booth, the Rev Joseph McCulloch. Writers, Broadcasters and Journalists: Jane Grigson, Rosamond Lehmann, Jack Lindsay.

Abroad, Apr 1: Inmates seized control of Strangeways

prison in Manchester; prison officers stormed the jail 24 days later. 3: Chris Patten, the environment secretary, announced that 20 Labour councils would be charge-capped. 11: Customs officers in Middlesbrough impounded steel cylinders bound for Iraq. A week later Nicholas Ridley, as trade and industry secretary, told the Commons that the cylinders were parts for a 140-ton "large-calibre armament".

Abroad, Apr 18: The Soviet government cut off oil supplies to Lithuania. 22: The Greek authorities arrested Paul Ashwell after customs officials found that his lorry was carrying parts of the suspected Iraqi "supergun".

Arts and Entertainment, Apr 29: BSB was launched.

Crime, Apr 24: Charles Wilson, the Great Train Robber, was murdered at his home in Spain.

Politics, Apr 19: The Commons passed the British Nationality Bill, granting British citizenship to 50,000 key Hong Kong personnel.

Science, Medicine and Health, Apr 4: Dr Raymond Crockett was ordered to be struck from the medical register for his role in procuring kidneys for transplants.

Sport, Apr 7: Marcus Armytage won the Grand National on Mr Frisk. 8: Nick Faldo won the US Masters golf championship for the second year running. 28: Liverpool won the FA championship.

Weather, Apr 2: Britain was hit by its second biggest earthquake in 100 years, measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale. 25: As temperatures reached 23C in London, the first hosepipe ban of the season was imposed.

Died, Armed Forces: Brigadier Francis Dunbury, Admiral Sir Frank Hopkins. Arts: James Chipperfield, Erte, Greta Garbo, Paulette Goddard, Sarah Vaughan. Business and Industry: Duncan Stirling. Education: Dr

APRIL

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MAY

Home, May 8: London's 4.5 million telephone subscribers grappled with the new 071 and 081 dialling codes. Abroad, May 4: The Latvian parliament voted to declare independence from the Soviet Union, as did Estonia the following day. 20: Romania's first free elections for more than 50 years were won by the National Salvation Front. 25: Boris Yeltsin was elected president of the Russian Federation.



Arts and Entertainment. May 15: Van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr Gachet* became the most expensive painting in the world when it was sold for £49.7 million in New York.

Crime, May 14: Seven civilians were injured when an IRA bomb exploded outside the Directorate of Army Education offices at Elham, London. 16: An army sergeant was killed and another seriously injured when an IRA bomb blew up their mini-bus outside an army careers office in Wembley. 17: Christian Brando, the son of Marlon, was arrested on suspicion of murdering his sister's boyfriend. 27: The IRA shot dead two Australian tourists in The Netherlands after mistaking them for off-duty British servicemen.

Sport, May 17: Manchester United beat Crystal Palace 1-0 to win the FA Cup. 22: The Whitbread round the world race was won by the New Zealand yacht *Stainless 2*, skippered by Peter Blake. The first all-woman crew in Morden, skippered by Tracy Edwards, finished second in their class. 24: Bobby Robson announced that he would resign as the England team manager after the World Cup.

Weather, May 1: The hottest May day since records began in 1875, with temperatures reaching 27°C.

Died, Armed Forces: Lt-Gan Sir Reginald Denning, Major Pat Reid. Arts: Sammy Davis Jr, Sir Reginald Goodall, Jim Henson, Jill Ireland, David Rappaport, Teddy Telling. Science and Medicine: Sir Geoffrey Eley, Captain J.W.G. James. Politics: William "Bill" Kaye, Sir Anthony Williams, George Young. Religion: Cardinal Thomas O'Flaherty. Sport: Rocky Graziano. Writers, Journalists and Broadcasters: Bob Darvers-Walker, Bill Sowerbutts, David Wood.

Home, Jun 14: David Waddington, the home secretary, announced that the convictions of the Maguire family for running an IRA bomb factory could not be upheld and would be referred to the Court of Appeal. 15: The High Court ruled that the government acted lawfully when it charge-capped 21 Labour councils. 21: Following the Calcutt report, David Waddington, the home secretary, gave British newspapers a year to set up a voluntary body, the Press Complaints Commission, which would implement a rigorous code of practice.

Abroad, Jun 8: Czechoslovakia's first free elections since the war were won by Civic Forum. 12: The parliament of the Russian Federation voted to declare that the republic had the right to secede from the Soviet Union. 30: Oil supplies to Lithuania were restored after the republic agreed to suspend its declaration of independence for 100 days.

30: The Deutschmark became legal tender in East Germany. Crime, Jun 1: An off-duty soldier was killed by IRA gunmen at Lichfield City station in Staffordshire. The IRA later shot dead Major Michael Dillon-Lee in Dortmund, West Germany. 8: An IRA bomb exploded at the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company in London, injuring 17 civilians attending a birthday party. 16: Belgian police captured three IRA suspects in a wood near Hoogerstraten. 25: More than ten people were hurt when an IRA bomb exploded at the Carlton Club in St James's Street, London.

People, Jun 15: Barbara Castle was made a life peer and Peter Ustinov, Richard Hoggart, Jimmy Savile and Kingsley Amis were knighted in the birthday honours list. 22: Kathleen Young and Irene Templeton became the first women priests in the Anglican Church in Europe.

Politics, Jun 3: Dr David Owen's Social Democratic Party was formally disbanded. 4: The House of Lords threw out the government's War Crimes Bill.

Royalty, Jun 26: The Prince of Wales broke his right arm in two places during a polo match at Cirencester Park.

Sport, Jun 6: Pat Eddery won the Derby on Quest for Fame.

Died, Armed Forces: Major Thomas Ingram. Arts: Eric Barker, Sir James Armatras, Sir Rex Harrison, Elizabeth Harwood, Raymond Huntley, Joe Loss, Angus McBean, Leonard Sachs, Dame Eva Turner, Elsie Waters. Business and Industry: Lord Palmer. Education: Professor William Kneale, Dr Hugh Sinclair. Law: Master Anthony Harwood, Chancellor the Rev E. Garth Moore. Politics and Civil Service: Sir Robert Armitage, Lord Fisher, Sean Hughes, John Jennings, Ronald Lewis, Lord O'Neill of the Maine, Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede. Religion: The Right Rev Gordon Savage. Writers and Journalists: Jon Akass, Robert Carvel, Tom Hopson, Irving Wallace.

Home, Jul 19: The NUM announced it would sue Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield in order to recover money raised by foreign miners in support of the British miners' strike. 24: Nato leaders meeting in London issued the London Declaration, formally ending the cold war.

Abroad, Jul 12: Boris Yeltsin resigned from the Soviet communist party.

Crime, Jul 2: Imelda Marcos and Adnan Khashoggi were found not guilty at the end of a trial for fraud in New York. 26: Three policemen and a Roman Catholic nun were killed when an IRA landmine exploded near Armagh in Northern Ireland. 30: Ian Gow, the Conservative MP for Eastbourne, was killed when an IRA bomb blew up his car at his home in East Sussex.

People, Jul 25: It was announced that the Rt Rev George Carey, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, would succeed Dr Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury. Politics, Jul 14: Nicholas Ridley resigned from the cabinet after publication of an interview in the *Spectator* in which he said the Germans were aiming to "take over the whole of Europe".



Sport, Jul 4: England was defeated by West Germany in the semi-finals of the Russian Federation Cup. 7: Martina Navratilova beat Zina Garrison to win her ninth Wimbledon women's title. 8: Stefan Edberg beat Boris Becker to win the men's final. West Germany won the World Cup, beating Argentina 1-0. 10: Uefa

lifted its ban on English clubs (except Liverpool) playing in Europe. Graham Taylor was confirmed as the new manager of the England national team. 22: Nick Faldo won the Open Championship at St Andrews. 27: Graham Gooch scored 333 runs in the first Test against India at Lord's.

Weather, Jul 23: A state of "absolute drought" was declared after Britain had less than 0.02mm millimetres of rain over a 15-day period. Died, The Duke of Portland. Armed Forces: Rear-Admiral "Tony" Pugsley. Arts: Jill Edmond, Margaret Lockwood, Sidney Torch. Education: Professor Norman Hanson, Sir Alan Parkes. Law: His Hon Judge Lewis Harcourt. Politics and Civil Service: Angus Beckett, Dr Bruno Kreisky, Capt Lawrence "Willy" Orr, Anthony Tasker, Sir John Richmond. Religion: The Rt Rev Laurence Fleming. Science and Medicine: Dr Arthur Crooke.

AUGUST

Home, Aug 29: David Waddington, the home secretary, announced that the Birmingham Six would have their cases reviewed again by the Court of Appeal.

Abroad, Aug 2: Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait at dawn and began massing along the border with Saudi Arabia. Following a naval blockade of the Gulf, Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq, refused to allow foreigners to leave Kuwait and Iraq. 5: All EC members, America and Japan banned imports of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude oil and petrol. 6: The UN voted to impose mandatory economic sanctions on Iraq; the ANC announced it was suspending its armed struggle against South Africa; Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, was dismissed by its president. 7: The US government began to send ground, naval and air forces to Saudi Arabia. 12: Arab leaders voted to send troops to Saudi Arabia. 12: Douglas Crockery, a Briton, was shot dead by Iraqi soldiers near Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia. 19: Iraq began rounding up foreign hostages to use as a "human shield" at key installations. 24: Any embassies in Kuwait that had not complied with Iraq's order to close were ordered by Iraqi troops and had essential supplies cut off. 25: The UN Security Council voted unanimously to authorise a naval blockade of Iraq under UN auspices. 31: President F.W. de Klerk announced that South Africa's governing National Party would in future be open to all races.

Business and finance, Sep 20: Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck International, was questioned by the fraud squad. Shares in the company were suspended. 26: Alan Bond resigned as the executive chairman and director of Bond Corporation. Crime, Sep 18: Sir Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry was seriously wounded by the IRA at his home near Stafford. 21: Nicol Ceausescu was sentenced to 30 years in prison for his part in the deaths of civilians during the Romanian uprising in December. Politics, Sep 7: Michael Forsyth, the chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, was promoted to Minister of State at the Scottish Office. Science, medicine and health, Sep 24: Orfal in pig feed was banned after confirmation that a pig had contracted BSE. Sport, Sep 18: The IOC announced that the 1996 Olympics would be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Died, Lady Home of the Hirsell. Armed Forces: Vice-Admiral Sir Kaye Eddler, Lieutenant-Colonel Hilary Hook, General Curtis Whalley, Major-General Norman Whalley. Arts: Irene Dunne, Athene Seyler, Lord Swann, Patrick White. Business and Industry: Robert Holmes & Court. Education: Professor Weston Watson. Politics and Civil Service: Lord Carson. Religion: Father Aleksandr Men. Science and Medicine: Alfred Meyer. Sport: Sir Leonard Hutton. Writers, Journalists and Broadcasters: Alberto Moravia, A.J.P. Taylor.

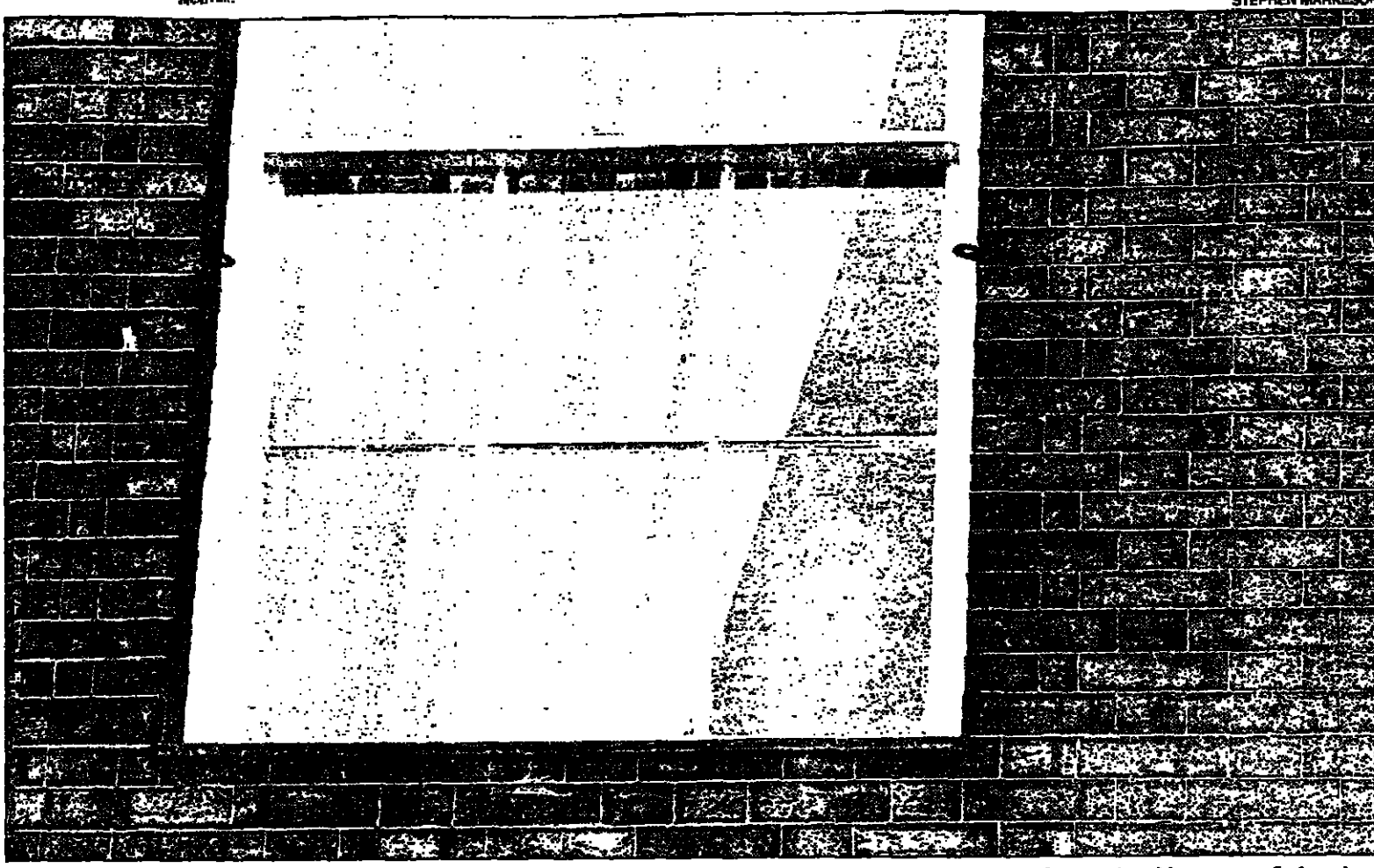


Home, Oct 18: The Zebruggie disaster trial collapsed at the Central Criminal Court. 23: Edward Heath returned from Baghdad with 37 freed British hostages. Abroad, Oct 2: Germany celebrated reunification. 8: At least 21 Arabs were killed when Israeli security forces opened fire during clashes between Jewish and Palestinian factions in Jerusalem. Arts and Entertainment, Oct 18: A.S. Byatt won the Booker Prize for her novel *Possession*. Business and Finance, Oct 9: Britain joined the European Exchange-Rate Mechanism as interest rates fell by 1 per cent. 12: Inflation reached an eight-year high of 10.9 per cent. 24: The directors of Polly Peck International applied for the appointment of administrators and six days later detectives from the Serious Fraud Office raided the

company's Mayfair headquarters. Crime, Oct 24: Six soldiers and a civilian were killed when the IRA forced two "human bombs" to drive to army checkpoints in Northern Ireland. People, Oct 10: Lord McGregor, the chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority, was appointed the first chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. 11: Patrick Nicholas, the parliamentary under-secretary of state at the environment department, resigned after being arrested on drink-driving charges while attending the Conservative Conference in Bournemouth. 15: President Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Politics, Oct 18: The Liberal Democrats overturned a Conservative majority of nearly 17,000 in Eastbourne. Sport, Oct 18: Lester Piggott rode two winners at Chesham a day after returning to the saddle. Died, Sheikh Rashid bin Saif al Maktoum, Laif Larsen, Lord Theobald, Stefano Casagrande. Armed Forces: Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Irving, Colonel Sir Edward Malet. Arts: Alyn Ainsworth, Jill Bennett, Leonard Bernstein, Avis Bunnage, Joel McCrea, Richard Murdoch, Lord Reilly, Delphine Seyrig. Politics: Norman Buchan, Lord Caccia.

Home, Nov 12: In the light of Lord Cullen's report into the Piper Alpha disaster, the government decided to switch responsibility for safety monitoring from the energy department to the Health and Safety Executive. 27: The *Sunday Correspondent* closed. Abroad, Nov 8: President Bush announced he was sending three more aircraft carriers and an additional 100,000 troops to the Gulf. 10: Chandra Shekhar was sworn in as India's eighth prime minister. 13: An RAF pilot, killed when his Jaguar bomber crashed in the desert, became the first British serviceman to die in the confrontation. 16: Saddam Hussein said he would release all 2,000 foreign hostages between Christmas Day and March 25. 18: In Paris a non-aggression treaty and an arms treaty reducing conventional weapons in Europe by almost a third was signed at the 34-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Arts and Entertainment, Nov 2: Sir David Tennant and BSB announced that they were merging. Mick Jagger married Jerry Hall in Bali. Business, Nov 15: Sir Ralph Halpern left the Burton group with a £2 million golden handshake; the number of unemployed rose to 1.7 million after the biggest rise since 1986. Crime, Nov 7: Terry Marsh was acquitted of the attempted murder of Frank Warren. 10: Four men were killed in an IRA ambush in County Armagh. 11: Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad found 80lb of Semtex explosives in two parked cars in north London. Politics, Nov 1: Sir Geoffrey Howe resigned. 8: Ireland elected Mary Robinson to be its first woman president. 13: In a speech to the Commons explaining the reasons for his resignation, Sir Geoffrey warned that the prime minister was risking Britain's future by her attitude to Europe. 14: Michael Heseltine announced that he would challenge Mrs Thatcher for the leadership. 20: Mrs Thatcher failed to win a clear lead over Mr Heseltine in the first round of the leadership election. Both candidates declared they would let their names go forward for a second ballot. 22: Mrs Thatcher announced her resignation as prime minister. John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary,



The final curtain: Mrs Thatcher, half-seen at an upstairs window of Number 11, looks on as her successor, John Major, enjoys his moment of triumph

payment of £742,000 from funds held by the International Miners' Organisation in Paris. 24: The government's use of charge-capping was declared unlawful by three appeal court judges. 27: Britain and Iran announced that they would resume diplomatic links.

Abroad, Sep 2: 200 British women and children were allowed to leave Baghdad aboard an Iraqi Airways jumbo. 6: 247 British women and children flew out of Iraq after a 500-mile drive from Kuwait. 9: President Bush and President Gorbachev issued a joint statement calling for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. 10: Prince Johnson and his rebel group captured and killed the president of Liberia, Samuel Doe. 17: EC countries ordered the expulsion of all military staff from Iraqi embassies after Iraqi troops invaded the residences of foreign diplomats in Kuwait. Four days later, President Saddam ordered the expulsion of military attaches from five countries, including Britain and France. 18: Winnie Mandela was charged with kidnapping and serious assault in connection with the abduction of four black youths. 25: The UN Security Council imposed an air blockade on Iraq.

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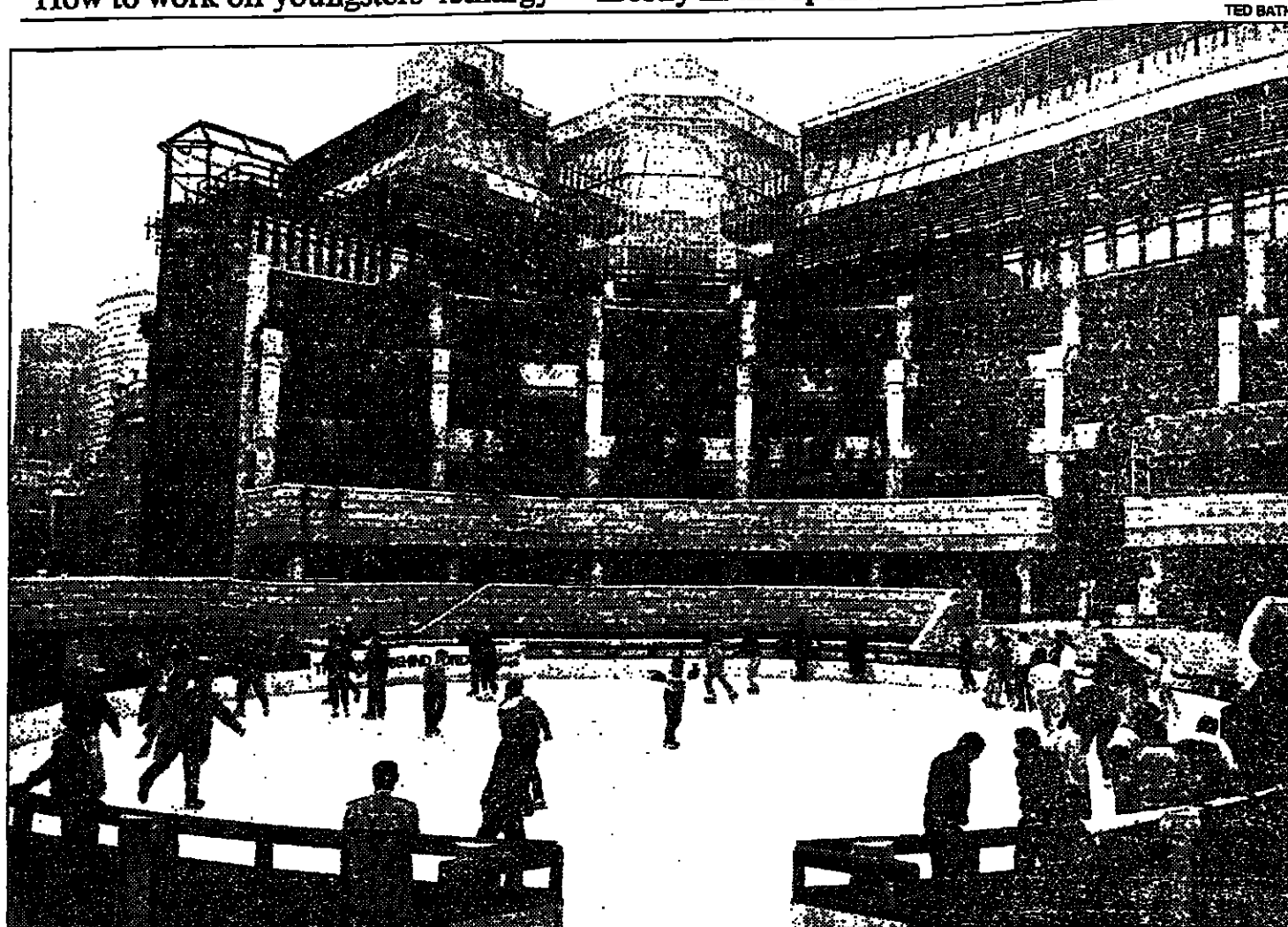
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- Bach's *Magnificat*
- Eliot's *Violin Concerto*
- Mahler's *Symphonies*

and much more...

Energetic events for children

How to work off youngsters' lethargy — mostly in the open air. Compiled by Lee Rodwell



Locomotion without fumes or traffic jams: the fourth season of open air ice-skating is under way at Broadgate, London EC1

NEW RELEASES

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG) Cocoon: Dunder star Paul Hogan as a professional thief who believes he has returned from the dead to the good dead. Rides out into supernatural whirly; director John Cornall, with Linda Kozlowski. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310).

FANTASIA (U) Disney's famous visualisation of popular concert classics: scooters between the churning, the caw, and the disapproving caw. With Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice, music played by Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Screen on the Green (071-225 2520).

THE MAHABHARATA (U) Three-hour version of Pinar Basu's stage epic which delves into Indian legends about the history of the world. Visually rich, though the material gradually compels attention. Baraban (071-358 8881).

CURRENT

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15) Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand artist J.M.W. Turner. Renard (071-437 8402).

BLUE STEEL (18) Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15) Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor, handsomely mounted. Odor: Haymarket (071-435 7897).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18) Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson matching around Venice, falling prey to the warped Christopher Walken. Laboursome psychological drama. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

FLATLINERS (15) Kevin Costner, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director: Joel Schumacher. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

THE HOT SPOT (18) Raging sexual tension and duplicity in a busy Texas town, delicately underpinned by director Dennis Hooper. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (P) on release across the country. Note: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times during the Christmas week.

THE FRESHMAN (PG) Quirky, uneven spoof of The Godfather, with Martin Brest as the godfather who has a New York film student (Matthew Broderick) as a delivery boy. Writer-director: Andrew Bergman. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

GHOST (12) Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Soane, incoherent, but absorbing while it lasts. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

GOODFELLAS (18) Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. With Robert De Niro. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

HENRY AND JUNE (18) Anne Miller's passionate affair with Henry Miller in bohemian Paris recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

HOMES ALONE (PG) Ruddy kid left alone at Christmas, words off-balance, machine-tooled American family fun from writer-director John Hughes. A top US hit. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

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THE KIDNAP (PG) Greatly engaging comedy about Italian neo-realism. Written and directed by, and starring, Maurizio Nichetti — an Italian comic hugely popular on the home video scene. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

THE LITTLE NEMO (U) Disney's much-loved version of Hans Christian Andersen's fantasy. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

METROPOLITAN (15) What Silberman's whimsy comic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and prepares one for a Christmas holiday. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2 (U) A return visit to the land of Fantasia. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unlikely child actor, Jonathan Brandis, seems out of place. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18) A chilling novel (by Paul Bowler) about a woman's violent reaction to a man's infidelity. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG) Noisy, charming feature-length advert for the new pop culture film. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

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TIME OF THE GYPSIES (18) Young accounts of Gypsy gypsy nostalgia, concentrated into an entry of the past. Dazzling set-pieces, but the disjointed narrative keeps the film from being a masterpiece. Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

A WORLD WITHOUT PITY (15) Life and love of a Persian layabout: a promising debut by young French director Eric Rohmer, with charming performances (Hippolyte Girardot, Mireille Perini). Cameramen: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2539) Oxford Street (071-435 0310) Mezzanine (071-500 6111).

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Walking, skating and swimming

THEY have ripped the wrapping from the presents, stuffed themselves with chocolates, ate the Christmas tree, exhausted the batteries in all the new toys, are goggle-eyed from watching too much television... and then they utter the words every parent dreads: "I'm bored. What can we do?"

One traditional answer is to suggest that they put on their hats and coats and set off for a brisk walk in the fresh air to counteract the effects of over-indulgence. A number of organised walks will be taking place over the post-Christmas period.

The Twelve Days of Christmas, for instance, is the theme of a series of walks being held in East Cumbria. All are taken at a gentle pace but for more details and information about those most suitable for children call 0228 61601.

Many children (my own among them) dislike the idea of walking for its own sake, and prefer to be given some specific reason for having to use their legs. The Treasure Trail at Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0622 765400), on New Year's Day would be more their idea of fun. You can roll up from 11am onwards, but the last practical start time is probably about 2pm. The clues lead you around the estate and should take about an hour to solve. Adults £5.20, accompanied children free.

Since 1991 will be the Year of the Maze, you could suggest going out to find one. The most famous of all is probably the hedge maze at Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey (081-977 8441; closed New Year's Day). Entry to the maze alone costs £1 for adults, 75p for children.

Mazes date back at least 4,000 years and there are more than 100 in Britain today. Not all are hedge mazes, some are in turf, brick,

stone, wood and water. Indoor mazes may be made from marble, mosaic or stained glass.

The Ancient Turf Maze on the Common at Saffron Walden, Essex, has 17 rings of brick paths set in turf and measures 132ft (OS Ref TL 54385). For more details about mazes open to the public and those suitable for family outings over the holiday period, contact Adrian Fisher (0582 461880).

If your offspring really detest walking, consider some other form of exercise. Modern leisure pools are a far cry from the swimming baths of old. The emphasis is on fun and games, not on swimmers going up and down in regimented lanes. Most will be open after Boxing Day, although some may close early on New Year's Eve and remain closed on New Year's Day.

Fantastic Tropical Indoor Water Park at Dartford, for instance, will be open daily. Normal hours are from 10.30am with last tickets at 9pm, apart from New Year's Eve when it will close at 3pm. There are giant turbo flumes, jacuzzis, kiddie pools with animal slides and floats, a wave machine, a lazy river, an inflatable tyre ride and a restaurant and bar. Prices: £5.50 adults, £4.50 for 5-14 year olds, £3 for 3 and 4-year-olds. Under threes are free. Access is via Junction 1A off the M25 at Dartford.


Alternatively, ice-skating might feel like a more seasonal activity. If you live within reach of London's Liverpool Street station you can even recreate the atmosphere of Victorian winters by taking the family skating in the open air.

ITV

CHANNEL 4

- 9.00 TV-am
- 9.25 **The New Adventures of He-Man** 9.50 **Thames News** and weather
- 9.55 **Film: Swiss Family Robinson** (1950). Colourful adventure fantasy in which the Robinson family are escaping from Napoleon's regime and are marooned on a tropical island. The family are rescued in a ship bound for New Guinea when they are forced on to rock by pirates. Luckily, they spy land and take supplies and animals ashore, build a salubrious split-level tree house and live happily-ever after. Starring John Mills and Dorothy McGuire. Directed by Ken Anderson
- 12.25 **Home and Away** 12.55 **Thames News** and weather
- 1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet. Weather
- 1.30 **Film: Freaky Friday** (1976). Family entertainment in which precocious teenager Julie Foster and medicop Barbara Hanscomb swap bodies for one day. Directed by Gary Nelson
- 3.15 **News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**. Australian medical soap
- 3.55 **Film: Out of the Darkness** (1985). Based on John Hoyland's *The Girl Against*, a chilling story about a woman and her two children who are born in a derelict cottage where in 1885 at the height of the great plague a young boy lay by his mother's side. Starring Gary Haldy and Emma Ingram. Directed by John Kruish
- 5.10 **Home and Away** (1)
- 5.40 **News** with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather 5.55 **LWT News** and weather
- 6.15 **Film: The Hidden Herpes**. A look behind the scenes at the stunt people who do the dirty work for Hollywood's stars
- 7.00 **Family Fortunes** Hogmanay. Les Dennis hosts a special Hogmanay show from north of the Border with the Smith family from Glasgow among the Nibbels from Hamilton and the prizes all going to Scottish charities
- 7.30 **Coronation Street** (1)
- 8.00 **Watching, Pam and Mrs Stoneaway** feel that Malcolm is not being looked after properly and the two figure out a possible solution
- 8.30 **Film: Fatal Confession** (1987). In this lightweight whodunnit, Tom Bosley stars as Father Francis Dowling, a parish priest who has a special talent of solving crimes. Directed by Christopher Hibler (Oracle)
- 10.20 **News** with Sandy Gall. Weather 10.30 **LWT News** and weather

6.00 **The Art of Landscape.** Soothing music and natural scenery 6.25
Business Daily 6.30 **The Channel Four Daily** 9.25 **Sesame
 Street.** Educational fun for pre-school children
 10.25 **Sabman and Robin** (b/w). In episode five the dynamic duo go
 in search of a secret formula 10.45 **The Adventures of Tintin.**
 11.00 **Things To Come.** Malcolm Bennett and Penny Southgate look into
 the future (r)
 11.30 **Tony Jackin's Pro Celebrity Golf Challenge.** Another round in
 the sportsman v entertainers contest from Le Touquet, France
 Guests are Nigel Mansell and Jimmy Tarbuck
 11.30 **Film: Scrooge** (1935, b/w). The story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the
 miserly merchant in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, starring
 Sir Seymour Hicks. Directed by Henry Edwards
 2.00 **Peel World.** Dublin vet John Wilson assesses the value of peo-
 ple (r)
 2.30 **The Maitland and Morpeth String Quartet.** Australian animation



Elements of the mousey and the demonic: W.C. Fields (3.05)

3.05 Film: *The Bank Dick* (1940, b/w).
 • CHOICE. If fans of W.C. Fields were to be shipwrecked on a desert island with only one of his films, *The Bank Dick* would probably be the popular choice. It is the best of his later pictures and the one that most comprehensively captures the essence of Fieldian humour. The playwright Peter Barnes has perceptively described Field's 'big idea' as the comedy (where he plays the henpecked husband) and the demonic (where he plays the huckster and the fraud). *The Bank Dick* combines elements of both. Written by Fields under the typically extravagant pseudonym of Mahatma Kane Jewees, it is a fast-moving string of gags adding up to what Barnes calls 'every middle-class male's Walter Mitty fantasy that starts at the bank, goes to the bank, employs with an obnoxious wife and children can be a hard financial genius, passes time: Hollywood director, bon vivant and generally good all-round fellow.'

4.25 Fairlie Tale Theatre: *Thumbelina*. Carrie Fisher, the tiny child no bigger than a woman's thumb in this Shelley Duvall production of the Hans Christian Andersen classic. (Teletext)

5.25 *Arrested Development*

5.55 *The Further Adventures of Billy The Fish*

6.00 Happy Days. American series about Fifties high-school life.

6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Sir David Steel, Jill Morrell, founder of *Friends of John McCarthy*, and footballer John Fashanu

7.00 Channel 4 News with Nicholas Owen and Zeinab Badawi.

7.00 *Clutter*

7.50 *First Reaction*. Celebrities from the entertainment world tackle controversial subjects. Followed by *Weather*

8.00 *Brookside*. Soap set in a Liverpool cove. (Teletext)

8.30 Eye 2 Eye. The panel game that tests the contestants' eye for style. French designer Philippe Stark shows off his new lookbrush and is joined by costante Paula Morley (second and third place) and producer and costume designer Johnnie Johnston. Van Der Post, designer Nigel Coates and cartoonist Michael Heath.

9.00 *Drop the Dead Donkey*. Television newsroom comedy. This final episode sees the realisation of the news team's ultimate goal – a late bar extension and an interview with the prime minister (r)

9.30 *The Further Adventures of Billy The Fish*. A compilation

9.45 *The Golden Girls*. US comedy with the mature Miami matrons. After an accident during the game operation Rose (who also could it happen too) has to wait 72 hours to hear the results of an AIDS test. (Teletext)

10.15 Film: *Outrageous Fortune* (1987). Comedy starring Bette Midler and Shelley Long, who are involved in an improbable search for the man who has been two-timing them. The two female leads (a starlet of pom-frits and a trendy dandy comic) have completely different attitudes, which creates the best sitcom moments. Excellent upstairs comedy directed by Arthur Hiller

10.20 *East Chinese Ghost Stories*: Mr Vampire (1986). Jonathan Ross introduces another film in the season of fantasy films from the Far East. An entirely new view of the vampire legend, sometimes very funny, in which the living dead move about by short hops. The story is broadly about a Chinese teacher who is being menaced by a host of vampire creatures, but it is also a love story, a thriller and a thriller too. Directed by Lau Kun Wei. Ends at 1.55.



A personal review of the actor: Salman Rushdie (10/25/01)

10.35 Arts Review 1990.
● CHOICE: Salman Rushdie makes one of his rare public appearances to join the panel assembled by Mervyn Bragg to look back on the year in the arts. Each of the pundits, who also include A.S. Byatt, Jane Glover, Linda Agran and Ned Sherrin, is given a five minute soap box from which to hold forth on what has excited them and in what areas it is least. The talk is punctuated by extracts from Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* and the play *Burn This*, featuring the explosive performance from John Malkovich. Balancing these American imports is an athletic solo from the Soviet dancer Irak Mukhamedov, who has just joined the Royal Ballet from the Bolshoi, while inspired Carpets represent the best of the pop scene. The evening ends with a performance of a specially commissioned dance from Les Anderson, performed by two groups, one male and one female, with very long and improbable names. Followed by News headlines

12.35am Film: Urban Cowboy (1980). An emotional tale of rivalry and misunderstanding between a man and a woman. Bud Davis arrives in Texas, and slowly reveals himself as the town's famous honky-tonk cowboy. Gayle, where he met Casey, the town's merry but feelings turn sour, when she refuses to let her ride the bar's mechanical rodeo. Starring Debra Winger and John Travolta. Directed by James Bridges

3.05 Film: The Roman Spring of Mrs Stone (1961). Vivien Leigh plays Mrs Stone, an ageing widowed actress who lounges around in Rome, and is seduced in turn by Warren Beatty, Adolphe Menjou and Tennessee Williams's first novel, the film veers between the unbelievable and the seamy and is only saved from mediocrity by a stunning performance by Lotta Lene as a wicked old procuress. Directed by Jose Quintero

5.00 Film: The Little Troll Prince (1987). Animated, made-for-television musical directed by John Ralston

5.55 Tm Morning News with Phil Borgen. Ends at 6.00

9.30 24 Carrott Gold.
CHOICE: With only a guitar, which he hardly plays, and a glass of beer as props, Jasper Carrott gives a riotous solo performance from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford. The show was recorded some months ago and makes no attempt to be seasonal or otherwise topical, relying on Carrott to apply his sharp observation and jaundiced outlook to topics as variously timeless as insomnia and the Reliant Robin. As if following the pantomime convention, Carrott works in a number of jokes for mainly local colour, such as the bus and the taxi queues at Birmingham City football club or East Midlands Airport may struggle to see the joke. One or two of the routines are stretched beyond their worth but it is an impressively fluid performance. Given Carrott's usual attire of slacks and open-necked shirt, the costume credit is something of a mystery. (Ceeetz)

1.30 Film: Roxanne (1987) starring Steve Martin and Daryl Hannah. A touching romantic comedy based on *Cyrano de Bergerac*. (Ceeetz)

2.35 Film: Just Before Dawn (1980) starring George Kennedy. Chiller about a group of leaguers on a camping trip in Oregon who are terrorised by a hatchet-wielding mountain man. Directed by Jeff Lieberman



A grainy, high-contrast black and white photograph of two men, identified as the authors of the book. They are both wearing hats and looking towards the camera.

9.35 Film: *Pelle the Conqueror* (1988). Heartrending story about a father and son (Max Von Sydow and Pelle Hvenegaard) who travel to Denmark in search of a new life. The only work they find is as farm labourers but, as the old man's dreams fade, the young Pelle's resolve strengthens and he decides to break away in search of new horizons. Winner of the Palme d'Or and an Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Directed by Bille August. (Danish film with English subtitles)

2.00 Film: *The Paradine Case* (1947, b/w). Gregory Peck is a lawyer who falls in love with his beautiful client (Alicia Vail) but love blinds him to the truth. Vintage Hitchcock.

Sportsworld 3.10am-5.00 Film: Point of No Return

LANGLIA
As London escape: 5.10pm-5.40p Kaitia and
Avery 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00p Angel
and Sons 3.10pm-5.00pm Fairy: Point of No Return

BORDER
As London escape: 6.00pm Looked
After 6.30-7.00p Take the High Road 3.10-
3.40pm Fairy: Point of No Return

CENTRAL
As London escape: 3.25pm-3.55 News
and 5.10-5.40p Home and Away 6.00 Home
and Away 6.25-7.00p Central News
6.25-6.55pm Fairy: Chesham 2.55pm Fairy: The
Connectors 4.45-5.10p Profile

CHANNEL
As London escape: 3.25pm-3.55 News and
Sons and Daughters 6.00 Channel News 6.15 Poetry
Night 6.20-7.00p Nature and Wildlife
3.10pm-5.00pm Fairy: Point of No Return

GRANDAD
As London escape: 5.10pm-5.40p Kaitia
and Avery 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00p
Angel and Sons Tonight 3.10pm-5.00pm Fairy: Point
of No Return

TV WEST
As London escape: 3.25pm-3.55 News and
Sons and Daughters 6.00 Home and Away 6.30-7.00p
HIV TV News 6.30-7.00p HIV News

HV V WALESS
As London escape: 6.00pm Wales at Six
6.30-7.00p Wales at Six

TSW
As London escape: 3.25pm-3.55 News and
Away 5.10-5.40p Who's the Boss? 6.00 TSW
News 6.15-7.00p Closeup 6.25-7.00p
3.10pm-5.00pm Fairy: Point of No Return

TVS
As London escape: 3.25pm-3.55 News and
Daughters 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00p
Coast to Coast People 3.10pm-5.00pm Fairy:
Point of No Return

TYNE TEES
As London escape: 6.00pm Newsline 6.15-
6.30p-7.00p The Black Page 3.10pm-5.00pm
Fairy: Point of No Return

ULSTER
As London escape: 3.25pm-3.55p Newsline
6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00p Specialized
World of Guinness Records 8.10pm-8.40p
Fairy: Point of No Return

YORKSHIRE
As London escape: 6.00pm-7.00p Calendar
3.10pm-5.00pm Fairy: Point of No Return

S4C
Shut: 6.00p The Art of Landscapes 6.30p

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RADIO 3

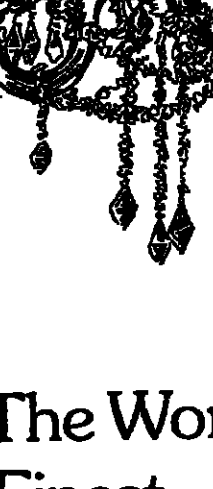
7.05am Test Match
 (BWW only): Australia v
 England. Third day of the
 second Test
 6.55 News and News Headlines
 (FM only)
 Christmas in Paris: Anon (O
 Marie Vireilly); Perotin (Alleluia
 only) (O Septentia, Santa
 Vespine)
 7.30 News
 7.35 Morning Concert: Copland (An
 American Overture); Richard
 Rodney Bennett (Country
 Blues; Ragtime Waltz; Four
 Place Suite); Rodgers (An
 American Andalus for four
 guitars and orchestra); Bolling
 (Ballade, Suite for cello and
 jazz trio)
 8.30 News
 8.35 Composers of the Week:
 Offenbach (La Belle Héloïse,
 excerpt)
 9.35 O Magnum Mysterium: Haydn
 (Symphony No 30 in C); Cou-
 poulain (Quatre mairies; pour
 les enfants de la nef); Corral
 (Poniente in A, Op 5 No 6); Liszt
 (Christus Part I, Christmas
 cantata)
 1.25 Berlin Pop On Leonard
 Slatkin performs Stravinsky
 (Suite, Puccinelli); Mozart
 (Le Nozze di Figaro, C, K
 505); Elgar (Variations on an
 Original Theme, Op 36,
 Excerpt)
 1.00pm News
 1.05 News Fluide
 ● CHOICE: Bear in mind, as
 we return to Britten's
 children's operas, recorded
 during this year's Pro-
 motion, that every other seat
 in the Albert Hall that night
 was occupied by a junior
 Prom-goer, and that a fair
 number of them were
 making their first contact with
 a musical form they had only
 heard about. It was a voyage of
 discovery, history in the
 making, and very exciting to
 be a part of. Donald Maxwell,
 Dallas, and Cleo Laine
 were the soloists. Like
 Finchley Children's Music
 Society and New London
 Orchestra, they were cheered
 to the echo
 2.00 Soundings (r)
 3.00 News
 3.05 Composers of the
 World: At the Aberdeens
 International Youth Festival,
 the Estates Youth Orchestra,
 under Peter Paemum
 performs Mozart (Concerto
 in D, K 135); Haydn (Concerto
 in C), Arvo Part (Cantus in
 Memory of Benjamin Britten—
 original version); John Joubert
 (Temps passé; Variations for
 string orchestra); Britten
 (Sinfonia Symphonica; Rudolf
 Tobias (Nocturne))
 4.45 All the World is a Globe:
 Glendale 4
 5.00 BBC Festival 1990: The pianist
 Claude Cassel plays Chopin
 (Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op
 10 No 3; in F, Op 10 No 4; in A
 flat, Op 47; in G minor, Op
 52); Debussy (Preludes,
 Book 2); and 5.35 Interval
 Repeating
 6.30 The Music Maker: Ian Carr
 examines the career of the
 trumpeter Miles Davis
 7.00 News
 7.05 Wolpert Conversations: The
 Wolfreid of Fancies, Sheldon
 Gossard of Hansel and Gretel
 talks with Lewis Wolpert (r)
 7.30 Visitors to the Prom: Royal
 Concertgebouw Orchestra
 under Riccardo Chailly
 performs Schubert/Berlioz
 (The Ringing); Mahler (Das Lied
 von der Erde; Jara, mezzo,
 mezzo, Goete Winberg,
 tenor)
 9.15 Don't Exaggerate, by Howard
 Gooder. The miniseries par-
 odied "Desire and Abuse" and
 "A Political Statement in the
 Form of Hysteria", is also
 a European lament
 9.45 Bath Festival 1990: Montse-
 rre Abbey Choir School under
 James Gough performs (Pachel-
 bel's Canon in D; Morales
 (Domine Jesu Christe);
 Morales (O magnum
 mysterium); Ecclesius (Virgen
 beata sin per); Guerrero
 (Sancta et immaculata
 virginis); Ruediger (Ainze
 bella); Victoria (O Rosa cost:
 Una hora; Duo asperum;
 Tenebrae factae sunt). 10.25
 A Journey to Jerusalem
 Excerpts from Raymond
 Calvert's translations of
 Francisco Guerrero's account
 of his travels to the Holy Land
 in 1588. 10.40 Vidal (Fugitivo
 delirio); March (O vos
 omnes); Corelli (Sonata
 Allegro); Julia (Toclet animam
 meam); Viola (Benedictus et
 qui vivit); Casanova
 (Musica ad posteros)
 11.00 Soundings of the Week:
 Handel (r)
 11.55-7.05am Test Match Special
 (BWW only): Australia v
 England, Fourth day of the
 second Test
 12.30am News (FM only)
 12.35 Close

RADIO 4

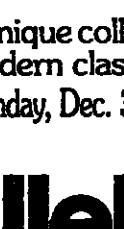
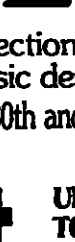
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News 2.30 Review T
000 4.30 Getaway

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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-22
● SPORT 24-28

BUSINESS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Wall Street fire halts share deals all over US

A DANGEROUS chemical fire stopped share dealing throughout America for 90 minutes. A massive explosion in a transformer in the lower Manhattan financial district sent flames shooting eight stories high and showered fire fighters with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs (writes Philip Robinson).

The building, which houses stockbrokers, Lehman Hutton, Chemical Bank, other financial firms, and the key computer equipment which matches share deals at both American and New York stock exchanges, was shut off for several hours yesterday.

Environmental officials cordoned the area until it had been rendered PCB-free, effectively stopping trading. It resumed at 11 am New York time and officials reported no damage to the equipment. Other American markets stopped trading until New York reopened.

Icahn hints at bid retraction

TWA's Carl Icahn hinted he would not bid \$375 million for Pan American Corporation if it sold its Boston-New York-Washington commuter shuttle.

Pan Am has refused to comment on newspaper reports it is poised to sell the shuttle service for \$150 million to Northwest Airlines. Mr Icahn said yesterday he was not consulted about any possible sale and first learned of it from newspaper reports.

Mr Icahn told Thomas Plaskett, Pan Am chairman, in a letter that one of the conditions of the offer was there be "no material adverse change in Pan Am such as bankruptcy, a sale of assets for less than fair value, defaults in major borrowings or obligations, or other similar events".

Levitt sale

The insurance broking business of Levitt Group (Holdings), the financial services company taken into administration on December 11, has been sold to its management for an undisclosed price, administrators KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock said. The company will revert to its former name of Chambers and Newman.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8858 (+0.0108)
German mark 2.8876 (+0.0001)
Exchange index 93.0 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1687.8 (+8.9)
FT-SE 100 2167.8 (+11.5)
New York Dow Jones 2643.07 (+5.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 2394.70 (+53.14)
Closing Prices ... Page 21

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 14.125-14.15%
3-month eligible bills 13.125-13.15%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury bills 8.46-8.45%
30-year bonds 10.5-10.52%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £1/\$1.8858
E: DM2.8876 \$/£1.5315
E: Sfr1.4651 \$/£1.3682
E: FF9.1607 \$/£1.2050
E: Yen257.50 \$/£1.3640
E: Index93.0 \$/£1.3622
ECU £1.707829 \$/£1.821
ECU £1.3030 \$/£1.821

GOLD

London: AM \$383.75 pm-\$382.80
close \$382.00-\$383.00 (203.19-203.72)
New York: Comex \$382.75-383.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$27.20 bbl
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.35	2.35
Austria Sch	21.20	19.90
Belgium Fr	23.15	21.8
Canada \$	11.85	10.85
Denmark Kr	13.15	12.15
France Ffr	10.21	9.81
Germany DM	3.22	3.01
Italy Lira	272.75	266.75
Japan Yen	3.45	3.15
Netherlands Gld	11.80	11.10
Norway Kr	22.25	20.25
Portugal Esc	200.25	190.25
South Africa Rd	6.20	4.70
Spain Ptas	17.31	16.8
Sweden Kr	2.275	2.15
Switzerland Fr	5.00	4.80
Turkey Lira	5.00	4.80
USA \$	1.8858	1.882
Yugoslavia Dnr	27.50	20.50

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

CBI underlines bleak struggle of holding down pay deals



Banham jobs warning

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CLEAR signs that employers and the government will find considerable difficulty in pushing down the level of pay settlements are given in the latest figures on wage deals from the Confederation of British Industry.

When figures from the Pay Databank were published in October, the CBI claimed that the provisional estimate for pay settlements in manufacturing in the three months to September was the first evidence of deals starting to move down.

In today's Databank figures, however, the CBI has had to revise upwards estimates of settlement levels for the last quarter to October, and for the quarter before that. Though the revisions are only marginal, they indicate that pay pressure in the economy is

still running at a high level. Though today's CBI survey does not include any data on settlements in the final quarter of this year, CBI leaders admit privately that the figures are unlikely to show much of a decline when they are published in the new year.

The CBI had estimated that settlements in the third quarter were 8.5 per cent, down from 8.9 per cent the previous quarter. Independent pay analysts suggested that the CBI's figures were not in line with those produced by other pay monitoring bodies, and seemed too low.

CBI leaders acknowledged internally that their first provisional figure had been based on a relatively small number of settlements. Today's figures revise the quarterly total upwards to 8.6 per cent. The figure for the previous quarter is also increased to 9 per cent.

While this means the CBI is still charting a

fall in settlements, ministers' enthusiasm for what the CBI figures are showing will be tempered by the fact that the revisions are, for them, going the wrong way.

That feeling will be increased by the CBI's provisional figures in the same report that show an actual increase in pay settlements in the service sector. Pay deals in private sector service companies, in such areas as catering, financial services, leisure, transport and retailing, were running at 9 per cent in the second half. This is higher than the 8.9 per cent for the first half, though the CBI points out that this is lower than the figure for a year before of 9.2 per cent.

Commenting on its latest figures, the CBI notes that manufacturers' estimates on productivity growth are now at 4.5 per cent, down to the lowest figure since it started

collecting this information three years ago.

The CBI says that to maintain an internationally competitive position, settlements last year would need to have been contained to no more than 2 per cent above productivity growth. Since only a third of British manufacturers achieved this target, the CBI gives a warning that in a recession, such figures indicate further redundancies. What it sees as a slowdown in earnings growth must continue, the CBI says, in order to stop the rising tide of redundancies turning into a flood.

John Banham, CBI director general, said: "The growth in unemployment can only accelerate unless lower pay settlements lead inflation downwards." He added: "If such recklessness prevails, there will be needless job losses, bringing bleak prospects to thousands of families in the new year."

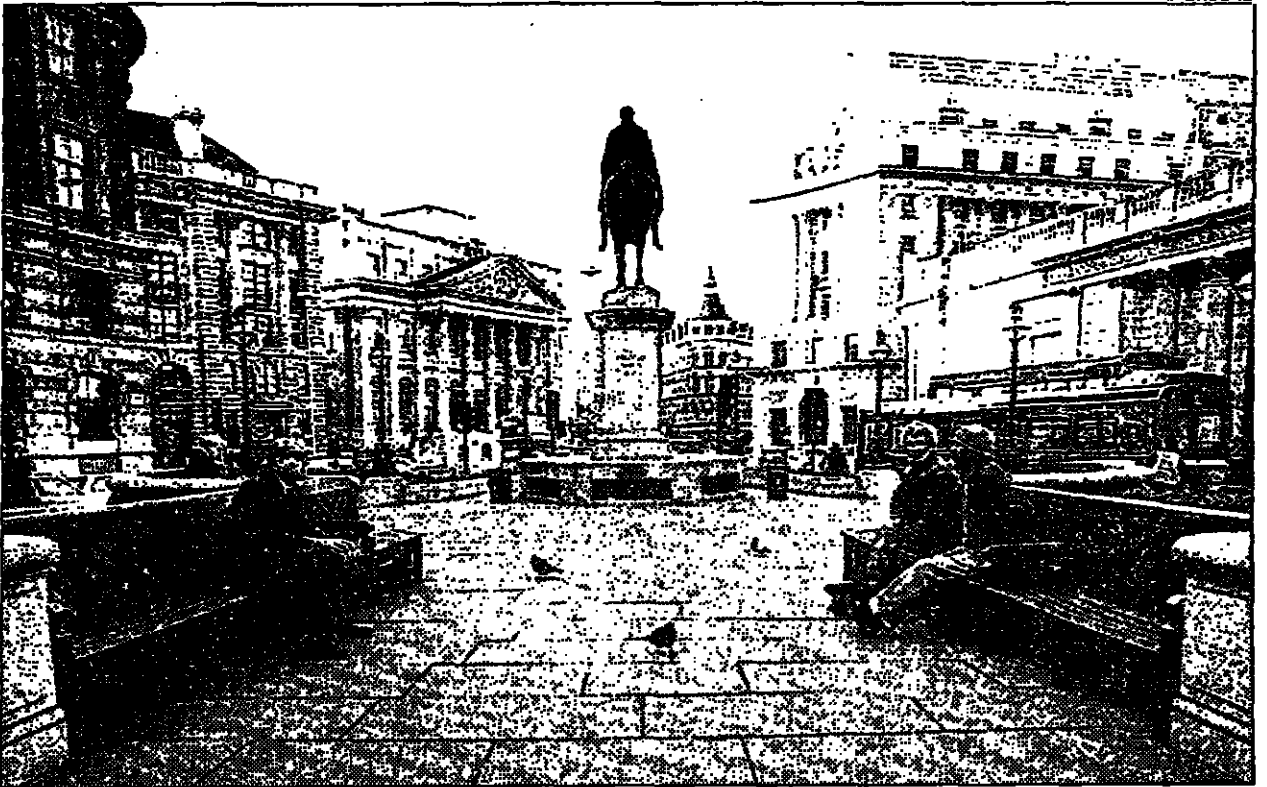
Economists see devaluation or rise in rates

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND GRAHAM SEARJEANT

THE government could face the awkward choice of an interest rate rise or a devaluation of the pound next year, Oxford Economic Forecasting predicts in an end-of-year report.

The report comes as two senior bankers voiced fears that there is little the government can do to prevent a full-blown recession and a sharp increase in business failures before the economy shows any sign of recovery.

Oxford forecasts that the trade deficit, after narrowing well into next year, will deteriorate again and upset the foreign exchanges. OEF attributes



All quiet at the City's nerve centre: even the Bank of England, right, lacked visitors at midday yesterday

Gloomy outlook for two industries

By OUR CITY STAFF

BRITAIN'S road freight and printing industries face a bleak 1991, according to industry surveys.

The printing industry is in deepening recession, a study by the British Printing Industries Federation shows. Seven thousand jobs, equal to 5.6 per cent of the workforce, have been shed through redundancy by the federation's 3,451 member firms this year.

In the gloomiest quarterly survey, conducted in mid-December, the federation found two thirds of the 60 representative companies working below capacity. A seasonal uplift in activity, expected in the autumn, failed to occur.

Colin Stanley, BPFI director general, said: "Three months ago, 22 per cent of our members thought that trade would be down in the final quarter. In reality, 48 per cent found that trade was down."

Road freight is also expected to face a tough year. A survey by the Freight Transport Association, which covers companies responsible for more than 155,000 goods vehicles, shows the companies are forecasting at best a flat period, with a majority expecting no change, or a fall in business.

Forty-seven per cent expect business levels to remain static, with 16 per cent expecting to move less goods than this year. However, 37 per cent do expect a small increase in business, while 23 per cent expect to reduce their fleet size next year. Some specialist transport companies are expecting a fall in demand of more than 15 per cent compared with this year.

Complaint by Nadir over jail treatment

Ankara

ASIL NADIR, the chairman of the collapsed Polly Peck International empire, has accused British courts of leaving him to rot in prison on false charges.

"Leaving people to decay in jails for ten to 15 years on made-up evidence is not unknown in Britain," Mr Nadir said in an interview with one of the newspapers he owns in Turkey.

He added: "That is British justice's treatment of me."

Mr Nadir was freed from five days in custody on December 20 after raising record bail of £3.5 million. He faces a second court hearing on January 28 and is not allowed to leave London.

The police are enquiring into 18 counts of theft and false accounting against Mr Nadir, allegedly involving £25 million.

Mr Nadir denies illegal dealing to support Polly Peck shares, which lost £2 billion in value before trading was suspended on September 20.

Mr Nadir described his jail cell as not fit for a pig.

"In British jails, they pay prisoners awaiting trial £1.45 a week to spend at the canteen," said Mr Nadir, who built Polly Peck into one of the hottest stocks of the Eighties.

"I was also given the money. I was happy. At the end of my 23 hours in the cell, I was allowed to go to the canteen."

"I demanded two packs of cigarettes, a pack of candy, two colas, a bottle of soda and a box of matches."

"The canteen man said to me: 'Are you kidding? You can only buy 13 cigarettes with this money. For the matches, try next week.'"

Lloyd's capacity for underwriting to reach £11.4bn

By JONATHAN PRYNN

UNDERWRITING capacity at Lloyd's is poised to reach a record of £11.4 billion next year, according to provisional year-end figures published by the market.

The capacity figure marks an increase of £400 million over this year and follows several years of unchanged or declining capacity. This year the number of underwriting members or names continued to fall, with 2,150 resignations against only 254 new members beginning underwriting at the start of next year. This will bring the number of names at Lloyd's down to 26,534 against 32,433 at the peak in 1988.

The overall capacity increase came from the record 6,329 names that will increase their premium limits for next year. The average premium limit for names next year will be £385,000, against £350,000 last year and £251,000 for resigning names.

David Coleridge, the incoming chairman of Lloyd's, who has argued that additional capacity will be needed to meet the rise in the insurance cycle in the early Nineties, said: "The increase in capacity comes at an opportune time for Lloyd's since all the indications are that the market is hardening at last and premium rates are rising compared with the last three years."

Most sections of the market have reported higher rates during this year's renewal season. Derek Willis, chairman of Lloyd's Underwriters' Association, which represents the marine market, said: "The reinsurance market is considerably tighter and some primary rates for vessels and

City stretches its holiday another day

THE City of London limped back into life as most dealers decided to make a week of the Christmas break.

In the equity market it took until 1pm for turnover to pass 100 million shares, half the normal number.

Among the sectors favoured by the market were brewers, retailers and housebuilders. The most actively traded were Trusthouse Forte, Trafalgar House, Ladbrooke, WH Smith, Courtaulds, BICC, Tarmac, Kingfisher and Boots.

Only a burst in the last 90 minutes helped lift turnover close to 180 million shares. An expected rush to sell by private investors in the electricity distributors failed to materialise.

Excellent Tessa start, says Lamont

THE tax-free Tessa schemes for savers will get off to an excellent start, according to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

Tax-exempt special savings accounts were introduced by John Major, Mr Lamont's predecessor, in his "Budget for Savers" in March and will open for business next Tuesday.

Savers can invest up to a maximum of £9,000 over the five-year life of a bank or building society Tessa, with up to £3,000 in the first year and up to £1,800 in later years. Interest remains free of tax as long as the capital is left in the account over the full five years.

"This is an important measure which will encourage taxpayers to save," said Mr Lamont in a statement.

"The scheme is convenient, flexible and simple. I am pleased to see that many banks and building societies have chosen to introduce this new savings product for their customers."

"Tessas are getting off to an excellent start. I am sure that they will help to cultivate the savings habit."



Lamont: important measure

Nissan to cut ties with UK distributor

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NISSAN Motor Company of Japan has given notice that it is severing links with Nissan UK, its sole distributor in Britain, and may set up a new dealer network within 12 months. It alleged breaches of contract by Nissan UK.

A spokesman for Nissan UK, a privately owned company which sold 138,000 Nissan vehicles worth £950 million last year, called the notice "totally invalid and without any legal foundation".

The confrontation comes after five years of growing acrimony. Two weeks ago, Octav Botnar, chairman of Nissan UK, offered for the second time in five years to sell the company to its Japanese supplier. In the autumn, he complained about the price he was charged for Primera, Nissan's latest British-built saloon.

Nissan Motor Company announced yesterday it would terminate existing agreements, but was offering a continuing arrangement until December 31, 1991.

Yoshikazu Kawana, managing director for European operations, said: "Events have demonstrated that NUK is not prepared to abide by the legal agreements between our companies and that the matter cannot be remedied by private discussion."

"Nor do we feel that we can give serious consideration to the offer to sell NUK's business to us, given that extremely protracted negotiations on this matter have taken place before when NUK's position resulted in failure to conclude an agreement."

A company spokesman said plans were in hand for "a new set up" in place of the network of 400 dealers appointed by NUK.

In a statement, NUK said it "sincerely regrets" allegations by NMC about its performance. A spokesman added: "Nissan UK has offered in good faith the opportunity for Nissan of Japan to acquire an interest in, and eventually total ownership of, our company. No substantive response or discussions have followed this offer, which is still on the table."

NUK has sold more than 1.9 million Nissan vehicles in Britain during the past 21 years, building Nissan a 6 per cent share of the new-car market. It claimed to have the right to sell all Nissan vehicles in Britain "in perpetuity". NMC denies that. In 1987, 70 per cent of Nissan

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UK uncertainty frustrates Swiss plan to buy part of Harwell

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A SWISS company has been trying to buy part of the government's research establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire, under a \$40 million plan to create a world centre for environmental safety testing. But uncertainties over the government's intentions for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority after the privatisation of the electricity industry are understood to have made it difficult for the Swiss to make headway through discreet approaches to British officials.

The Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), which operates a worldwide network of laboratories for inspecting and analysing agricultural and industrial products, has made approaches over the past year about the Environmental Safety Centre at Harwell, a 20-year-old laboratory and consultancy service of world standing. The centre is focused on non-nuclear environmental work.

SGS has an annual revenue of about \$572 billion (£306 million) and a staff of 23,000. The SGS board, which includes Fritz Leutwiler, former president of the Swiss Central

Bank, has recognised important growth markets for safety testing emerging from international concern about environmental problems.

The Swiss company has identified Harwell as a potential centre for its environmental operations, building on its high international standing. But having failed to approach at ministerial level, SGS is likely to consider alternative targets in Europe.

One fear is that the uncertainty arising from the privatisation programme could lead to scientists leaving Harwell in large numbers.

Under the restructuring of the Atomic Energy Authority, Harwell has cut its staff by 1,200 to just over 3,000. The component businesses are under government instructions to show a profit or face further shrinkage. The ESC employs about 40 scientists.

An Atomic Energy Authority spokesman was unaware of the SGS approaches, but said he was not surprised. A spokesman for SGS's subsidiary at Camberley, Surrey, said executives could not be contacted for comment.

Britain leads in takeovers

BRITAIN was the world's most acquisitive nation in 1990, carrying out 504 cross-border deals with a \$29.2 billion aggregate value.

Britain's tally nudged America, with 483 cross-border deals valued at \$23.6 billion, into second place, according to a merger and acquisition survey by Securities Data, the Newark, New Jersey, data group.

In the British M&A market, Kleinwort Benson and Schroders, the merchant banks, led the field in terms of worth and number of deals. Kleinwort Benson handled 55 worth \$17.6 billion in 1990, while Schroders handled 57, valued at \$7.9 billion. Goldman Sachs emerged as the world's lead adviser with 162 deals, valued at \$48.3 billion.

Citicorp service charges to soar

Customers of Citicorp, America's largest bank, will pay almost 70 per cent more for some services from Tuesday to help pay for loss of earnings on property, management buyout and third world loans.

Problem debts mean Citicorp will lose up to \$400 million in the fourth quarter and slash its dividend next year by 44 per cent.

Mazda move

Mazda plans to increase its maintenance service stations in Poland to 15 from eight, and to 20 from five in Yugoslavia. The company will also increase dealerships in eastern Germany to 227 from 97, and expand its sales and maintenance service network in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Allianz to slow

Allianz, the insurance company, faces a period of consolidation, according to Wolfgang Schieren, the chairman. Allianz was not likely to continue growing as strongly as it had in recent years.

Sarragan deal

Sarragan, a wholly owned Swiss subsidiary of Adidas, the sports goods maker, has sold its rights to two brand names, Le Coq Sportif and Arena, in the Far East and South East Asia to Descente for an undisclosed amount.

Rover growth

Rover Japan, the Japanese subsidiary of Rover Group, estimates its car sales in Japan will be 36,000 by 1995, double those in 1990.

Unchanged data

The cost of living in western Germany showed an annual rise of 2.7 per cent in December, unchanged from November.



Awaiting details: Sir Gordon at the fair trading office

RMC enquiry continues

RMC Group, the world's largest concrete company, said investigations are continuing after an internal enquiry uncovered market sharing agreements between nine of its subsidiaries and 20 other concrete companies (Ross Tienan writes).

Details have been sent to Sir Gordon Borrie, head of the fair trading office.

In June, four readymix concrete companies, including

Gateway interest charges hit Isosceles

By MICHAEL TATE

ISOSCELES, the leveraged group that acquired the Gateway supermarket chain last year, made a pre-tax profit of £700,000 in the 28 weeks to November 10, after paying interest of £99 million on the debt created to finance the £2.1 billion deal.

The figure does not include losses of £13 million relating to Herman's, the American sporting goods chain, which Isosceles has been trying to sell. This charge, comprising a net loss of £2.8 million and financing costs of £10.2 million, is taken below the line, leaving a loss attributable to Isosceles's equity owners of £12.3 million.

It emerged from the restructuring statement that Herman's has been hit hard by the depressed retail climate in America. Profit estimates were said to have been severely reduced.

Isosceles's interim results have been sent to the 4,000 shareholders with the document detailing the group's re-financing details, which was published on Christmas eve.

The results show that group turnover for the period was £1.67 billion, of which Gateway was responsible for £1.56 billion, and £30.7 million profit, and Wellworth, the high street business, for £110 million, earning £9 million. Net margins at Gateway were 5.8 per cent, with Wellworth's at 8.2 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Invergordon disposal

INVERGORDON Distillers Group, the Scotch whisky company that returned to the stock market in the spring, has sold Deanston Distillery to Burn Stewart Group for £2.1 million. The company said the distillery's operations have not had a material effect on Invergordon's results in recent years. The sale represented a tidying up of affairs.

The net book value of the assets is £700,000. The proceeds of the sale will be used to cut group borrowings. Group borrowings are expected to be a little above £40 million at the year end, which is slightly below expectations.

Fall in orders equals record

THE American commerce department said November orders for durable goods in the US matched the record 10.5 per cent drop last January. Wall Street economists had expected a fall of 3.1 per cent in November's figures.

Westpac in NZ takeover

WESTPAC Banking has agreed to buy Southland, New Zealand's largest building society, for an undisclosed sum. Southland, which has assets of about £125 million, will recommend the deal to its 50,000 members in February.

Oliver sale nets £2.6m

OLIVER Group, the diversified footwear retailer, is selling its loss-making Photo Shop subsidiary to Hemsworth Photo Finishes for £2.6 million. The company said it does not consider the photographic business to be profitable in the short-term and has acted to avoid losses.

The proceeds will be used to discharge Photo Shop's liabilities and reduce group debt. Photo Shop, which provides film processing and developing services as well as selling accessories from 42 sites, lost £940,000 in 1989.

Sugar rebel 'confident'

GNI, the commodity trader campaigning against closure of the London sugar trading floor, says it is confident of sufficient support to block the proposal. A simple majority is needed at a meeting on January 8 to introduce a screen-based system.

Poddington losses soar

LOSSES at Poddington, the third market company established to market the Poddington Peas cartoon series, jumped from £68,928 to £256,225 in the first half of this year. The loss per share is 1.5p (0.4p). There is no dividend (nil).

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (pts)	Yearly change (pts)
The World	583.3	0.0	-30.8	0.4	-22.6
(free)	111.6	0.0	-30.8	0.3	-22.6
EAPE	992.9	0.0	-36.3	0.3	-30.8
(free)	102.1	0.0	-36.4	0.2	-30.9
Europe	599.1	-0.1	-21.3	0.0	-18.6
(free)	129.7	0.0	-20.6	-0.2	-18.3
North America	631.2	-0.1	-19.8	0.1	-19.9
(free)	1082.5	0.2	-30.5	0.3	-25.4
Pacific	177.6	0.7	-24.5	0.7	-19.8
Far East	2193.4	0.1	-44.7	0.5	-38.2
Australia	3178.7	0.1	-45.1	0.5	-38.9
Canada	232.8	-0.1	-33.0	0.8	-19.3
Belgium	1319.8	-0.2	-11.2	-0.3	-5.9
France	699.2	0.7	-29.0	0.2	-26.1
Germany	430.3	-0.3	-26.0	0.0	-15.8
Italy	1073.6	1.5	-18.4	1.7	-14.2
Japan	652.3	0.3	-43.5	0.5	-39.5
(free)	87.8	2.1	-41.4	2.4	-37.0
Netherlands	574.6	-0.7	-28.9	-0.5	-25.2
Sweden	684.4	-0.6	-24.3	-0.6	-19.9
Switzerland	1989.5	0.2	-10.3	0.3	-5.0
UK	256.9	0.8	-33.4	0.9	-29.0
USA	3333.2	0.1	-46.0	0.5	-40.0
(free)	743.6	-0.2	-21.4	0.1	-16.7
New Zealand	52.1	-0.2	-49.4	0.2	-39.8
Norway	1079.3	0.8	-19.6	0.3	-14.4
(free)	189.0	0.7	-19.1	0.3	-13.9
Singapore	1469.9	-0.7	-26.3	0.0	-20.4
Spain	163.4	-0.8	-31.0	-0.8	-27.8
Sweden	1138.2	-0.7	-35.1	-0.5	-29.7
(free)	165.7	-0.4	-31.6	-0.2	-25.9
Switzerland	706.5	-1.0	-22.7	-0.7	-23.3
(free)	107.7	-1.2	-22.8	-0.9	-23.4
UK	46.4	-0.4	-10.4	-0.4	-10.5
USA	380.8	-0.1	-19.1	0.0	-5.3

(pts) Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

STOCK MARKET

Oil companies hit after forecast of price cut

OIL shares suffered a bout of nerves after Kleinwort Benson, the securities house, predicted a drop in the oil price next year - war or no war.

Kleinwort forecasts in its latest economic review that the dollar price per barrel will fall to about the low twenties. It says the worldwide recession and the subsequent decline in demand is likely to have more effect on the price than a war in the Gulf.

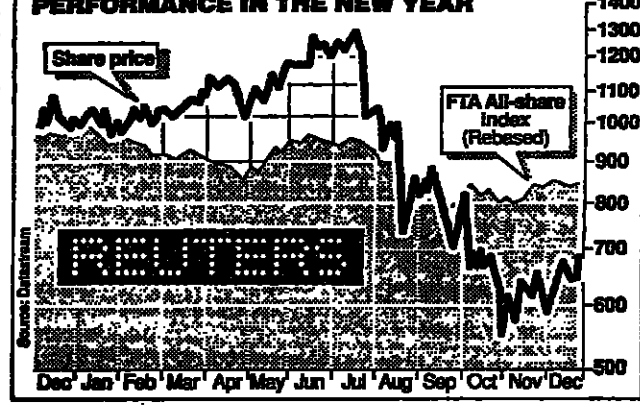
The Opec states are now producing 23 million barrels a day - more than they were producing at the start of this year. Demand is bound to contract as the recession continues to bite.

Rises among the oils were trimmed. BP at 339p, Esso at 467p, ended unchanged but there were falls for Barmah, 1p to 509p, after 512p, Lasso, 1p to 385p, and Richmond Oil and Gas, 2p to 76p.

Meanwhile, most investors decided to extend their Christmas break with turnover again at a low level. Today is also the end of the financial year for a number of market-makers and they were reluctant to open positions. Stock shortages and the appearance of a few bargain-hunters combined to drive prices higher in late, thin trading. The FT-SE 100 index finished 11.5 ahead at 2,167.8 with a fire in New York delaying the start of trading in Wall Street. The FT index of 30 shares rose 8.9 to 1,687.8. Turnover was only 1.687.8 million shares, of which the electricity sector accounted for 42 million.

Government securities were unable to glean any support from a firmer pound and ended with losses of 3p at the longer end. One of the best performers was Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, which

LOOKING FOR A BETTER PERFORMANCE IN THE NEW YEAR



climbed 22p to 685p after confirmation that it had been asked to supply an electronic futures and options trading system for Chicago's two futures exchanges. The shares are also in the list of new year tips with brokers more optimistic about the outlook. The delay in the launch of Reuters' computerised,

There was evidence of income-buying among the institutions before next Monday's clutch of companies going ex-dividend. BT rose 3p to 234p with the group due to pay a 5.25p dividend. It was a similar story for Granada, up 6p to 193p, paying 7.5p, Burton, 1p firmer at 88p, paying 3p, and Hanson, 2p up at 196p (7.4p).

screen-based trading system, Dealing 2000/02, for at least six months, the sale of a large part of The News Corporation's share stake and recent profit downgrades have seen the price virtually halved. It started the year at £13.16 but has been as low as 55p since then.

Some brokers and fund managers are now taking the view that the fall has been overdone and that the bid

MICHAEL CLARK

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (pts)	Yearly change (pts)
FT-SE 100	2167.8	11.5	-	-	-
FT-SE 250	1687.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 500	1316.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 750	1016.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 1000	716.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 1250	416.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 1500	116.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 1750	-116.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 2000	-416.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 2250	-716.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 2500	-1016.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 2750	-1316.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 3000	-1616.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 3250	-1916.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 3500	-2216.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 3750	-2516.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 4000	-2816.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 4250	-3116.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 4500	-3416.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 4750	-3716.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 5000	-4016.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 5250	-4316.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 5500	-4616.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 5750	-4916.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 6000	-5216.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 6250	-5516.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 6500	-5816.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 6750	-6116.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 7000	-6416.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 7250	-6716.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 7500	-7016.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 7750	-7316.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 8000	-7616.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 8250	-7916.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 8500	-8216.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 8750	-8516.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 9000	-8816.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 9250	-9116.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 9500	-9416.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 9750	-9716.8	8.9	-	-	-
FT-SE 10000	-10016.8	8.9	-	-	-

WALL STREET

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (pts)	Yearly change (pts)
Dow Jones	2834.07	+5.94	-	-	-
S&P 500	330.75	+0.10	-	-	-
Nikkei Average	23940.70	+0.33	-	-	-
Hong Kong	3065.71	+0.76	-	-	-
FT-SE Eurotrack	945.51	+1.68	-	-	-
Amsterdam	3065.71	+0.76	-	-	-
CBS Tendency	3065.71	+0.76	-	-	-
Sydney: AOX	1280.7	+0.00	-	-	-
Frankfurt: DAX	1410.87	+0.01	-	-	-
Brussels:	3065.71	+0.76	-	-	-
General:	3065.71	+0.76	-	-	-
Paris: CAC	4934.35	+0.86	-	-	-
Zurich: S&K Gen	415.83	+0.06	-	-	-
London:	3065.71	+0.76	-	-	-
FT - A-Share	1041.26	+4.74	-	-	-
FT - 500	1428.10	+5.56	-	-	-
FT - Gold Mines	105.00	+0.00	-	-	-
FT - Food Int'l	50.69	+0.21	-	-	-
FT - Govt Secs	62.20	+0.04	-	-	-
S&P 500	330.75	+0.10	-	-	-
SEAO Volume	22370	-	-	-	-
USAI (Datastream)	112.10	+1.29	-	-	-

Blue chips edge back after losses

NEW YORK BLUE chips recovered from slim losses and achieved gains in the late morning. The start of trading was delayed until 11am because of an early morning fire in Manhattan.

Shares generally had opened weaker on renewed economic worries, highlighted by a steep (10.5 per cent) drop in November's durable goods orders. The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 3 points to 2,834.07.

Prices closed firmer in light trading after a short-lived rally in the afternoon faded on profit-taking and worries about the Gulf.

The Nikkei index rose 53.14 points to 23,940.70. (Reuters)

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More to 1990 than a few tears in Turin

SIMON BARNES

I am a lucky man: I can look back over a year of sport without once thinking of Gazza's tears. I missed 'em all. I was in Turin watching the footy at the time: there seem to have been radical differences between the match played in the stadium and the one on television.

Both were good games, but those in the stadium missed those heartstring-wrenching close-ups. Gazza is not on my list of sporting heroes of the year.

Ask me for the face of the World Cup, and I will instantly recall Toni Schillaci, the blazing-eyed Sicilian who scored six goals for Italy. For me, covering the tournament on a roaming brief, the best part of the World Cup was being in Rome, and watching Italy play at the Stadio Olimpico.

It would be true enough to say that my World Cup hero was Italy itself. Of all the countries in Europe, it is the one I love most to visit, and all the nation's joys and fears were summed up in Schillaci. Has any footballer ever possessed a more expressive face? He would make a mad, kamikaze plunge, head-first through a forest of boots, and fractionally wince and turn to the camera with a shoulder-shrugging gesture of disbelief: *Porca Madonna! Non e vero!*

He seems to possess the triple qualities for which Italy itself is renowned: stylishness, ruthlessness and fallibility. His splendid goals made him the tournament's top scorer, but once he and his side left the glories of Rome for sordid old Naples, they were unmissable. As *La Stampa* said: "Basta. Stop. Chiuso. Finito. Amen. Requiem." I felt the Italian disappointment almost as keenly as Gazza did his own.

The English sportsman of the year was Graham Gooch. No, not for his charm and his expressive face, I have never got on with him, and have criticised him often for his South African connections. But he has done something worth saluting these past 12 months.

Considering this was his *annus mirabilis*, it really was a bloody awful year. He has broken a hand twice, but before and after has achieved greater things than any England cricketer this decade. Yes, even including that fellow.

As batsman, Gooch's achievements in the English summer almost defy belief. His 456 runs in two innings in a single Lord's Test match would have been remarkable for a man in the prime of youth: Gooch is 37. His achievements are a vivid testament to his concentration, technique, fitness and desire. It was superb by any standards by which the game has ever been judged. "It was OK," Gooch said.



But his leadership has been still more remarkable. I know it sounds a bit silly to write this now, but he really did create an England team bristling with skill and the confidence to use it. Coming off the run of misery in the Eighties, this achievement speaks of leadership well out of the common run. Wouldn't it be lovely if he could do it again?

Another unforgettable face of the year was Chris Sabo. Sabo, as I am sure you know, plays third base for Cincinnati Reds. Cincinnati won the baseball World Series this year with the help of a wild, extravagant, game of a lifetime from Sabo.

What a lunatic. Hedgetrimmer haircut, plays in prescription swimming goggles. One of those insanely competitive underdogs. Like Napoleon. He had a great series, but game three was his summit. He hit two home runs in consecutive at-bats, which would be enough to satisfy most players.

But his fielding - his defence, in the vernacular - was a thing of demented splendour. Diving everywhere with the verve of Maradona, he made one impossible catch, one impossible stop after the next. He was a man overloading on adrenalin: it was as if an evening of sport as I saw all year. Sabo's post-game comment: "Our work's not done." He should meet Gooch: it would be like Max and Oscar at the Cafe Royal.

A sportsman sees an awful lot of sport. One's palate can get a little jaded; one can find that one only really tastes the vindaloo

events. The World Series was a special treat. It was not only a magnificent sport, it also had the tang of exoticism. Paradoxically, that brings one closer to the essence of sport which is confrontation, competition, a striving for the mastery. It was grand sport, and for a sportsman, a uniquely refreshing occasion.

The boy Sabo done great. My female athlete of the year is unquestionably Salsabil. She won the fillies classics, the 1,000 Guineas and the Oaks, and then took on the colts and beat them in the Irish Derby. She picked up two other group one races in the year.

This would be a fine performance in any circumstance, but I had a special reason for cheering. The horse was trained by John Dunlop. In 1987, I spent a year working with the Dunlop stable researching a book. It was for Dunlop personally and for Castle Stables generally, a year of great troubles and great sadness. In that

year, I acquired the most enormous respect and liking for Dunlop.

I longed for the luck to turn. Dunlop has known lean years, as every trainer must in this, the most volatile of all games. This year it all went right, and at the centre of this was Salsabil. Dunlop took it all in stride. Surely, he was the man Kipling was thinking about when he wrote about the two imposters. The girl Salsabil done terrific.

Further salutes to females go to Nicola McIlvaine and Jo Durie. McIlvaine won Badminton this year on a horse called Middle Road. It was her year. Everything fell right for her, including Mark Todd, the greatest rider of them all, who made an unscheduled dismount into the water on the cross-country. McIlvaine went on to get married to a middle-of-the-road Tory politician. The boy Seb done remarkable.

I met Durie in Sydney, at the

Australian Open. Yes, shock-horror, she had just lost a tennis match. Her sheer courage wins you over. She has never lost her desire to appear in public and put herself on the line again and again, to expose her spunk-glass temperament to the ruthless examination of professional sport. I think Durie is a very splendid lady.

However, as I toss these names and faces around in my mind, I have no hesitation at all as to where my own personal Sportsview Personality of the Year award is to go. Back to Italy, and a man more memorable than either Toto or Gazza: stand up Roger Milla of Cameroon.

Cameroon were the team of the tournament, and Milla was its heart, soul, mascot and cutting edge. He was allegedly 38, had retired at least once, was playing amateur football on the island of Reunion, and played in the World Cup only as a sub. He scored four

goals, and celebrated each with an all-African version of the lokey Shuffle.

His goals took Cameroon to the quarter-finals, when they were beaten by England. I had no mixed feelings about this; I felt simple, straightforward, disappointment. I have rather a thing about Africa, you see.

The 1990 World Cup will be remembered for very little save the crushing tedium of too many of the matches - a result of the thrice-accursed penalty shoot-out. The one thing that emerged from the World Cup was African football. Africa will now have an extra representative at subsequent World Cup finals.

The future of football is in the Third World. The future of many things lies there. Cameroon and Milla provided the world with all the things we look for in sport: excitement, joy, fallibility and, above all, hope.

The boy Milla done miraculous.

SNOW-REPORTS

	Depth L U	Conditions Piste Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather & temp (°C)	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA					
Ischgl	7 80	good powder	good	fine	2 26/12
Good skiing but limited due to wind					
Ischgl	120 120	good powder	fair	cloud	-3 26/12
Excellent skiing conditions with fresh powder skiing					
Obertauern	55 140	good varied	good	snow	-8 27/12
Light snow fall yesterday improved lower slopes but new snow has blown off the upper slopes. Still no gullies					
St Anton	40 120	good powder	good	cloud	0 27/12
Heavy snow fall today. Upper runs closed due to wind					
Schladming	10 105	good powder	warm	snow	1 27/12
New snow has improved lower slopes. Upper and middle slopes are in excellent condition					
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	85 220	good heavy	good	fair	-1 27/12
New snow improving good pistes					
Chamrousse	50 190	good powder	closed	snow	0 27/12
Fresh snow on excellent pistes					
Palme	50 165	good varied	good	snow	2 27/12
New snow on firm base. Off piste heavy near resort					
Isola	95 135	good heavy	good	fine	-1 10/12
Most runs open with good skiing everywhere. Rocks swirling to snow on lower slopes					
La Plagne	80 125	good fair	good	cloud	-1 27/12
All pistes in excellent condition with new snow improving warm patches. Moderate queues					
Les Arcs	80 160	good powder	poor	snow	1 27/12
Pistes in excellent condition. New snow has helped routes back to resort					
Megève	75 75	good varied	fair	cloud	5 26/12
Overnight snow created good skiing above 1,600m					
Tignes	84 204	good powder	good	snow	-8 27/12
New snow on a firm base giving excellent skiing. Some lifts shut due to high winds					
Val d'Isère	74 140	good heavy	good	snow	-1 27/12
High winds and coronning snow have made off piste hazardous. On piste conditions very good					
Val Thorens	115 215	good powder	good	snow	-2 27/12
Continuous snow fall has caused bad visibility but excellent skiing conditions					
ITALY					
Cervinia	80 230	good crust	good	fair	-2 27/12
Excellent skiing on all pistes.					

England captain, Richard. Prior to their final match, he had scored 114 of his side's 240 points and it will be surprising if he does not succeed this winter at representative level.

